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PART XXIX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XXIX.

No. 1.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 807.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 1, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador and General Todleben have informed Grand Vizier that the Pomak insurgents having crossed the frontier of Eastern Roumelia, and having attacked Russian troops, Russia cannot, in future, expose herself to such occurrences. Consequently, they were instructed to call upon the Porte to put a stop to this state of things by placing several regiments of Turkish regular troops between insurgents and the Russian forces. They further stated that they attached the greatest importance to the immediate execution of this measure, otherwise they would find it necessary to stop the embarkation of troops for Russia. Russian Ambassador says that this matter is so grave that it may lead to very serious consequences.

Count Zichy has telegraphed above to his Government.

Under these circumstances, I have not taken any steps about withdrawal of the fleet. The transport of the Guards to Russia continues, and about 14,000 have probably now left, but the troops of the line have been raised to their full efficiency since the war ceased.

Acting Consul Calvert writes that Bulgarians having attacked some Mussulman villages, the insurgents descended from the mountains, and retaliated by destroying some Christian villages. This may have led to the communication made to the Grand Vizier.

No. 2.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 53. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, August 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on Saturday, the 27th ultimo, a fresh outbreak occurred of the Mussulmans of this town, of a much more serious character than the former one reported in my despatch No. 48, Political, of the 10th July. This outbreak is supposed by some persons to have been in consequence of intelligence having been received here that the Austrian troops would cross the frontier the following day, and because the Austrian Consul-General had distributed some copies of a Proclamation from his Government to the inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, copy and translation of which I beg to inclose herein; but, from information I have since obtained, I am inclined to think that it had been in preparation for some days previously.

The immediate pretext for the disturbance was the removal from the fortress to

the arsenal of some pieces of artillery, and the refusal of the authorities to give arms and ammunition to the people. They declared that they were being betrayed into the hands of the Austrians, and they collected in great numbers and attacked the konak, or Government House, clamouring for the Pasha's death. Troops and four pieces of mountain artillery were brought into the konak by a back entrance, but no serious attempt appears to have been made to disperse the mob. The Ferik, Hafiz Pasha, declared that the troops refused to fire on the people, but it is very doubtful if they were ever ordered to. They fired repeated volleys in the air, but this only irritated the people, who, at the command of Hadji Loyo, fired on the soldiers; and on this a company of zaptiehs, which was drawn up near the konak, fired on the people. There was a momentary confusion and panic, and had the advantage been followed up, either by another discharge or even by a charge at the point of the bayonet, probably the crowd would have dispersed and the disturbance have been at once suppressed. Profiting, however, by the weakness and indecision of the authorities, the people soon had the upper hand. Firing was kept up throughout the afternoon, but the casualties were few; 14, I believe, killed and wounded on the side of the troops, and 10 or 11 on the side of the people. The Vali (Constant Pasha) and other Osmanli officials fled from the konak; the telegraph wires were all cut; the prisons were thrown open, releasing some 300 individuals, including many criminals of the worst class; the few Bosniac soldiers still in garrison disbanded and joined the people, and the Asiatic soldiers were made to quit the barracks and were lodged in the different khans in the town, so as to be under the eyes of the Bosniacs.

In the course of the night Hafiz Pasha, with four companies of infantry, four mountain-pieces, and a troop of cavalry, left Serajevo, but with what object is not clear. The people declare he was endeavouring to effect an escape, whereas he pretends that he wanted to reach the citadel above the town from the rear, by making a detour, and prevent the powder-magazine and arsenal from falling into the hands of the Bosniacs. Early the next morning, however, he and his troops were brought back to the town prisoners without having fired a shot in their defence. I consider the whole thing to have been a comedy, and the conduct of Hafiz Pasha has throughout been most inexplicable. Either he has been acting according to instructions, and conniving at this rising of the Mussulmans, or else he has displayed the most consummate cowardice—the former I consider by far the most probable. Having been kept prisoner some time in a khan he was taken to the chief mosque, and prayers having been said, he was conducted to the konak and installed as Civil Governor. He is, of course, utterly powerless, and a mere puppet in the hands of the people. In fact, at the present moment, no authority exists but the authority of the people, and unfortunately the worst class have got the upper hand. Many respectable native Mussulmans, averse to these disturbances, have sought safety in flight, or are concealed at their country houses, but the majority have from fear sided with the people. Hadji Loyo, Hadji Kaukgee, and a certain Hogia named Yanakovic, are the principal leaders of the movement.

In the course of Sunday afternoon the officer who, on the previous day, had commanded the zaptiehs to fire on the people, a Bosniac and aide-de-camp of Hafiz Pasha, was openly murdered in the town.

The people having no longer anything to fear from the authorities, either civil or military, their fury against the Vali, Mazhar Pasha, began to abate, and it was decided that he should be allowed to quit, together with the Mutesharf, Constant Pasha. The latter actually left early on Monday morning, the 29th ultimo, taking the Mostar road, and Mazhar Pasha was to have followed in a few hours. When the time came, however, his Excellency was prevented from leaving, and his life was thought to be in danger; a band of armed men also started off to bring back Constant Pasha. They found him not many miles from the town in a Mussulman Bey's country-house awaiting Mazhar Pasha, and he was made to return, together with a Christian zaptieh named Yasha Aga, who had left with him. When they reached the centre of the town they were set upon by the mob, dragged from the cart, their very clothes torn off their backs, robbed of all their money and baggage, their horses even taken, and the cart broken in pieces. They were then locked up in a room in a khan, and guarded by Bosniacs. An immense crowd of Mussulmans collected, many tried to scale the walls of the khan to get at the prisoners to kill them, and no one thought they would ever come out alive. Hadji Loyo, however, seems to have exerted his influence to save them—probably he was bribed—and the following day, together with Mazhar Pasha, the Kadi, and the Mektoudjee, they were allowed to quit Serajevo by the Constantinople road under escort of about 200 Bosniacs.

When Constant Pasha was brought back and despoiled, and matters seemed proceeding from bad to worse, my colleagues and myself decided on addressing a remonstrance to Hafiz Pasha, copy of which I transmit herewith, in the hopes that it might induce him to make some effort to prevent excesses, and that it would give weight to his endeavours in the cause of order.

The Turkish authority having been got rid of, measures were now taken to resist the Austrian advance; arms and ammunition were distributed to both Mussulmans and Christians, bread was ordered to be made in large quantities, and every one told to be ready to march in the course of the next two days.

On Wednesday, the 31st ultimo, Hadji Loyo went to the Austrian Consulate and informed M. Wassitsch that he must leave immediately, with all his employés, and he succeeded also in extorting from him a sum of 30 napoleons. M. Wassitsch said he was ready to leave if the Provisional Government made the demand in writing. This was done, and at about 2 P.M. M. Wassitsch, with his whole Consular Staff, and many of his subjects, left for Mostar. He selected that route as the safest, thinking to find the town already in the possession of the Austrian troops. In this, I fear, he will have been mistaken, as news have been received here to-day of a rising of the Mussulmans yesterday at Mostar. The Mutessarif, his brother-in-law, the Mufti, and one or two other Turkish officials, are said to have been murdered, and Ali Pasha, the Commander of the forces, to have escaped, with three battalions, towards Gabella, the other three battalions stationed at Mostar, probably Bosniacs, having sided with the people.

At first, when the time fixed for marching against the Austrians arrived, there was very little enthusiasm. The Asiatic troops who were sent on in front, deprived of their Commanders, went most reluctantly. They had no officers with them above the rank of Yuzbashi, or Captain, no baggage, no tents, nothing, in fact, to which they were accustomed.

On the morning of Wednesday a certain Rizvan Bey, one of the instigators of the revolt, rode through the town, upbraiding the people for their lukewarmness, and then, in a fit of fury, drew his sword and cut down three men—a zaptieh, an Orthodox priest, and his own nephew. The two former have, I believe, both died of their wounds. Great efforts have since been made to increase the ardour of the people, and a telegram received from Banjaluka—translation of which I inclose herewith—recounting the occupation of that town by the Austrians, in a manner which indicates permanent annexation, has been published here to serve as an incentive to resistance. Yesterday and to-day considerable bands of armed men have left the town for Travnik, Visoka, and Vranduk, and it is calculated that up to the present moment about 5,000 men have marched from the kaza or district of Serajevo. What sort of resistance they will offer it is difficult to foretell. There is no organization of any kind, no arrangement for the regular and continued provisioning of the men, no plan of operation, and, above all, no one in whom is vested the supreme command; but every little band of men acts entirely on its own responsibility. Yet, in spite of all this, the Austrians may find their advance considerably retarded, even if no greater calamity happens, by these irregular forces, and the longer they delay the greater will be the resistance. There is very little doubt that had they been less dilatory, and made a rapid entry and advance a fortnight or three weeks ago, they would have met with trifling opposition.

The Christians, Catholic as well as Orthodox, and even the Jews, have been armed, and several small bands have left with the Mussulmans. They are only, however, actuated by fear of the latter, and will certainly not fight if they can avoid it. It appears astonishing, in fact, that the Mahommedans should be so easily duped by them.

There cannot be said to be any authority or Government here at the present moment. Hafiz Pasha is nominally Vali, and a Council of citizens are supposed to direct affairs, but they have very little power; and yet, on the whole, a surprising tranquillity reigns in the town. This is, no doubt, partially owing to the absence of a large proportion of the male population. There are also no military here, except the guards which were placed by Hafiz Pasha at the various Consulates the first day of the outbreak, and which have been allowed by the people to remain. I go out freely in the town, unattended even by my cavass, and meet with no disrespect or annoyance. All Europeans, except the Consuls, have either quitted the place or remain concealed in their houses.

No one is allowed any longer to wear European costume. Officials, officers of the army, all and every one in fact, the Consuls alone excepted, rich or poor, Mahommedan

or Christian, are obliged to wear the national dress. Turkish women also are forbidden to wear the Constantinople "ferijeh," to carry parasols, or to wear European boots, and must veil and dress themselves according to the usage of the province. To-day also a notice has been published that henceforth the country will be governed according to the Sheriat, or religious law; imprisonment will be abolished, a murderer will be instantly executed, a thief will have his hand cut off, &c. In fact an attempt is being made by the fanatical and conservative Mussulmans to bring back the country to the state in which it was some thirty years ago, before its subjection by the Serdar Ekrem Omer Pasha, and the introduction of the Tanzimat, when its allegiance to the Porte was merely nominal, when the native Beys were the sole power in the land, and when the feudal system was still in full force.

I am still strongly of opinion that the Turkish Government was the original instigator of the resistance to the Austrian occupation. It is difficult otherwise to account for the unceasing arrival of arms and ammunition during the past month. I myself have seen many hundred cases of cartridges enter the town, and the Vicomte du Halgonêt, Military Attaché to the French Embassy at Constantinople, who arrived here the day of the late outbreak, states that between Mitrovica and Serajevo he passed over 400 horse-loads of ammunition coming this way, while at Mitrovica there were thirty-two railway vans full of ammunition destined for Bosnia, and a railway official told him that during the whole of the war with Servia so much ammunition had not passed over the line as during the last few weeks.

The telegraph wires were repaired on the 30th ultimo, and since that date I have been able to maintain a telegraphic correspondence with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna regarding passing events, and I requested his Excellency to forward my telegrams to your Lordship. All postal communication with Europe is, however, entirely cut off, but I have prepared this Report that I may send it to your Lordship at the earliest opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Proclamation.

(Translation.)
Bosnians and Herzegovinians!

THE troops of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary are on their way to pass the frontiers of your country.

They do not come as enemies who wish to appropriate by force the land.

But they come to you as friends who wish to put an end to those numberless evils which already since many years, it might be said since the memory of man, trouble not only Bosnia and the Herzegovina, but also the neighbouring Austro-Hungarian provinces.

With grief the illustrious Emperor and King has heard that internal and civil war is devastating this beautiful land; that the inhabitants of one and the same country are shedding each other's blood; that commerce and trade are disappearing; that your flocks are plundered, your fields uncultivated, and that misery has taken root in your towns and villages.

Owing to great and heavy misfortunes, it was not possible for your Government to restore lasting peace and concord, on which alone is based the happiness and prosperity of a nation.

The illustrious Emperor and King could not any longer behold with his eyes how oppression and disorder extended towards his provinces, how poverty and misery came ever nearer to the frontiers of his Empire.

At his suggestion the European Governments turned their attention to your condition, and at the Congress of Berlin it was unanimously decided that Austria-Hungary should restore to you that peace and prosperity of which, poor creatures, you have already been so long deprived.

His Majesty the Sultan, desiring your happiness, decided also to confide you to the protection of his mighty friend the Emperor and King of Austria-Hungary.

The Imperial and Royal troops will therefore come to you. They do not bring you war but peace.

Our arms will protect every one and oppress no one.

The illustrious Emperor and King commands that all sons of this land are to enjoy

equal justice before the law; that everyone is to be protected as regards his life, his religion, and his goods and possessions.

Your laws and regulations will not be capriciously abrogated, and your sanctuaries and your customs will be respected.

Nothing will be altered by force. In every case your wants will be maturely considered and reflected on.

The old laws will still be valid until new ones have been promulgated. All secular and spiritual authorities are expected to watch over and maintain order, and to support the Government in everything.

The revenue of the country will be solely applied to its wants, whatever they may be.

Unpaid taxes of past years will not be sought or collected.

The troops of the illustrious Emperor and King will neither oppress nor afflict the land. They will pay with money for whatever they require from the inhabitants.

The illustrious Emperor and King is aware of your burdens, and desires that you may be happy.

Under his mighty sceptre live together many nations, and each speaks its own language. He rules over followers of many religions, and everyone possesses publicly and freely his faith.

Bosnians and Herzegovinians!

Hasten with confidence under the protection of the glorious Austro-Hungarian standard.

Await our soldiers as your friends, be obedient to the authority, recommence your labours, and you shall have protection for the fruits of your works.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

The Consular Corps of Serajevo to Hafiz Pasha.

M. le Commandant, *Bosna-Serai, le 30 Juillet*, 1878.

LE Gouverneur-Général nous fait savoir que, forcé de se démettre par suite des circonstances actuelles, il vous a remis ses pouvoirs. En présence des faits qui se passent, de la tournure que semblent prendre les affaires, et du danger que court, dit-on, la vie de l'ex-Vali, nous ne pouvons, M. le Commandant, que vous engager à prévenir la population de la gravité de ses actes, et de la responsabilité qui retomberait sur la province entière si elle se livrait aux moindres excès soit contre les particuliers soit contre toute autorité constituée.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Corps Consulaire,
(Suivent les signatures et sceaux).

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Telegraphic despatch addressed by the Commander and by the Mutessarif of the Sandjak of Banjaluka to the Sublime Porte and to the Government of the Vilayet.

(Translation.)

THE Austrians passed the frontier on Monday. According to instructions they received the protest, but, disregarding it, entered yesterday, Wednesday, at 5 o'clock (noon) into Banjaluka. As they announced that they would enter the fortress, and that the Imperial soldiers must go out, answer was given that we could not deliver up what had been entrusted to our care, but that if they entered by force we should protest but not offer resistance. In this matter we received your order some time since, which contains instructions as to how we are to act in case of the Austrians passing the frontier with the consent of the Government, but that if they should precipitate matters before a Convention, that we were to protest; that the soldiers and the people were to remain in their places, but no one was to offer resistance. According to this order, we confined ourselves to an official protest, and nothing was done, either by the people or the soldiers, contrary to your wish. The Austrians, relying on their strength, entered the fortress, turned out the Imperial troops, and in the place of the Ottoman standard hoisted the Austrian and saluted it solemnly. Then they desired

that a Commission should make out a list of the cannon, necessaries, ammunition, &c., and make them over to them; but we said we could not do that without permission, and as they knew they could not force us, they agreed to wait, and placed a guard over the ammunition. When they entered the town they stuck up notices in the public places, written in Turkish and Slav, in which certain assurances are given, stating that under Austrian protection live many different nations, and inviting all the inhabitants to come under the glorious Austrian standard, and which, putting aside the idea of merely reforming existing institutions, plainly indicates annexation. The people are in a state of indescribable uneasiness, and the soldiers have dispersed to their homes. About 200 artillerymen who remained, and all the Redif and other officers, and the civil employés, are left in the streets. In the chest there is not a para, and in the Austrian notice all arrears of taxes are remitted. On account of the disturbances at Serajevo, communication is interrupted, and as caimés have entirely lost their value, officers, soldiers, and employés are starving. Indescribable despair prevails. We and the notables of the town beg immediate instructions as to whether we are to accept or resist these proceedings and demands of the Austrians.

(Signed) HUSSEIN, *Commandant of Banjaluka.*
SALIH, *Mutessarif of Banjaluka.*

August 1, 1878.

No. 3.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 54. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, August 12, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 53, Political, of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that during the past week the leaders of the Mussulman revolt have not relaxed their efforts to stir up the people to resist the Austrian advance. Hadji Loyo, whose power and influence are absolute, has been indefatigable in his endeavours, and it is said that, had it not been for his presence here, not a fourth part of those who have marched would probably have done so. High and low, rich and poor, all have been forced to arm and go to the front. General Ismet Pasha, the Gyumrukgee, or head of the Customs Department, the Chief Inspector of Forests, and many others I could mention holding high positions, have been obliged to put on the Bosnian costume and go as common Bashi-Bazouks. Had they refused it would have cost them their lives. In fact it has been a complete reign of terror. Large money exactions have also been made on the population. The Jewish community alone have had to pay 1,000,000 piastres. From Fazli Pasha 800,000 piastres were demanded. A certain Christian merchant, who refused to proceed to the Possavina to raise the Christians, was made to pay 15,000 piastres, and upon some pretext or other every one has had to contribute his quota.

It appears that, as yet, the Bosniacs have offered but a feeble resistance to the Austrians, and the slow advance of these latter has considerably diminished their prestige in the eyes both of friend and foe. The Asiatic troops, to whom were entrusted the most important positions, are said to have fought well at Yaïca and Maglaï, and to have suffered great loss, but they received no support from the native Mussulmans. These Asiatic troops now refuse to fight any longer, and several thousands have passed through this town, or taken the road over the mountains, during the last three days, on their way to Sjenica. They tried to induce the guards stationed at this and the other Consulates to accompany them, but on the Consuls undertaking to eventually provide for the safe conduct of these men free of expense to Sjenica, and in the meantime to assure them their daily food, they have all remained at their posts.

In consequence of the defeat experienced by the Turks at Yaïca, the Austrians seem to have entered Travnik on the afternoon of the 10th instant without meeting any resistance, and the inhabitants of the town are said to have most decidedly refused the offers of assistance from Serajevo. It becomes, in fact, daily more evident that no resistance would have been made in any part of the country to the Austrian troops had the people not been urged to it by emissaries sent from this town. Compulsion and intimidation have been resorted to everywhere to make the people rise, and Osmanli officers and functionaries have been robbed and murdered in all parts of the province.

The Bashi-Bazouks have naturally committed innumerable excesses wherever they have passed, and ruined the crops, which unfortunately in many places were not gathered in. They have also burnt the residence of the Catholic Bishop of Bosnia, situated at Brestovca, about twenty-five miles from this town.

On the 4th instant a telegram was received here from the Porte urging the people not to oppose the occupation of the country by Austria. Hafiz Pasha did not dare publish this telegram. He communicated it to a few of those who have taken into their hands the management of affairs, but they declared that in the present state of excitement of the people they could take no steps in the matter.

On the 6th another telegram was received from the Porte to the effect that the Sultan, viewing with regret the shedding of blood now taking place in Bosnia, had begged the intervention of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain; and Hafiz Pasha was ordered to proceed immediately to the Austrian head-quarters and inform General Philippovich, and to hold him responsible for all future bloodshed. Hafiz Pasha was on the point of starting on this mission, but was prevented by the people.

Yesterday Hafiz Pasha, accompanied by a deputation of townspeople, consisting of two Mussulmans, two Orthodox Christians, one Catholic, and a Jew, left this for Busovaca to try and make terms with the Austrians. On the other hand, Hadji Loyo, who went two days ago to Kisiljak, has returned to Serajevo, and is making a last effort to induce the people to resist the Austrian advance. I do not think, however, he is likely to be very successful. For several days past the people have been secretly returning to their homes one by one, and they will not willingly again take up arms. The public crier, however, announced to-day in town that all those whose names were on the lists of combatants who did not join their respective banners by to-morrow would be shot, and that anyone was free to shoot those who attempted to evade this order.

The Austrians were at Vitez, fourteen hours' march from this, yesterday, and should therefore reach Serajevo in three or four days.

On the 7th instant the Consuls were informed by the Chief of the Telegraph Office that their telegrams in cypher would no longer be transmitted, but that they might telegraph *en clair*, but only in the French language. This was tantamount to a total prohibition to telegraph, as most certainly any telegram containing information regarding passing events would be rejected. I have reason also to believe that cyphered telegrams that arrived on the morning of the 7th for myself and colleagues were suppressed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 4.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 55. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, August* 13, 1878.

I THINK it is my duty to bring to your Lordship's notice a circumstance which has given rise to much comment here.

On the occasion, a few days ago, of the departure for the front of a band of some 200 Orthodox Christians, M. Petranovic, Dragoman of the Italian Consulate, with a Consular uniform cap on his head, marched in front of the men through the streets, and on reaching the limits of the town stopped and harangued them in the presence of many Mussulman and other bystanders, urging them to fight to the death, and never to allow their country to fall under the dominion of Austria.

M. Petranovic is a native of Dalmatia, but was some years since exiled from his country, and has since been living in Bosnia under Italian protection—first as Orthodox schoolmaster in the small town of Tésanj, and latterly as Dragoman of the Italian Consulate at Serajevo. He was also formerly, I believe, Secretary to the Prince of Montenegro. He is well known for his ultra-Panslavistic sentiments, and is said to have been very active lately in exciting the people—Mussulman as well as Christian—to resist the Austrian occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

August 16*th*.—Since I wrote the above M. Petranovic has been dismissed by the Italian Consul.

E. B. F.

No. 5.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 56. Political.)

Bosná-Serai, August 17, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 54, Political, of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Hafiz Pasha and the deputation of townspeople returned here from the Austrian head-quarters at Zenica on the 14th. General Philippovich told them that he had no terms to propose; that he had been ordered by His Majesty the Emperor to occupy Bosnia, and intended to carry out the order; and that nothing would stop his march on Serajevo. He then added that he was well informed of what had been going on at Serajevo; he referred also to the massacre and mutilation of a detachment of Austrian cavalry at Maglaï, and said that if another shot was fired against his troops he would hold the dastardly inhabitants of Serajevo responsible for all that had happened throughout the province, and inflict such a vengeance on the town as would not be forgotten for centuries.

In spite of this, and although the members of the deputation were convinced of the futility of further resistance, but dared not openly say so, the Bosnines, to the number of about 5,000, endeavoured to stop the Austrian advance at a place called Klokoti, between Busovaca and Kisiljak. They were yesterday morning, however, driven without difficulty from their positions, and the fugitives have been entering the town all night long. Yesterday evening there was still some talk of making a final stand in the plain of Serajevo, but this morning the plan seems to have been relinquished, and the advanced guard of the Austrian army is now at about 12 miles' distance, at the entry to the plain of Serajevo.

What between the fear of the town being pillaged by the beaten and flying Bashi-Bazouks, and that of an attack from the advancing Austrians, there is considerable panic here to-day. Many people are quitting the town; others are moving with their goods and chattels from the lower part to the more inaccessible quarters. Several Turks have been to me to ask what they had better do. I have tried to assure them that if they offer no further resistance, and remain quietly in their houses, they have nothing to fear from the Austrian troops, and that the leaders and instigators of the revolt will be alone punished, and that all they have to do is to take precautions against acts of pillage and arson by their own countrymen.

Hadji Loyo has fortunately been incapacitated from working any further evil. On the afternoon of the 13th he, together with some of his followers, attempted to set fire to a khan a few miles from the town, pillaged some Christian peasants' houses, and killed a peasant youth. The next morning the mother of the murdered youth came to town to complain, and Fazli Pasha, who was Acting Governor in Hafiz Pasha's absence, declared that these proceedings of Hadji Loyo could be no longer tolerated. No one, however, showed any inclination to take active measures against him till a certain Yuzbashi of the "Gordon Alai," or Bosnian Frontier Regiment, an Albanian by birth, said that if authority were given him he would undertake to bring Hadji Loyo to the konak either dead or alive. This he was ordered to do, and he immediately took twenty men with him to search the town and effect his arrest. Hadji Loyo hearing this repaired of his own accord to the konak, and as he entered the courtyard loaded a Martini rifle, which he latterly always carried in his hand. What his intention was no one seems to know, but he would probably have succeeded by intimidation and violence in reasserting his authority. As he ascended, however, the steps of the konak, his rifle went off, and the bullet passed through his instep and shattered his foot. He was then taken to his house, where he now lies. It is not thought that he can survive the wound unless his foot be amputated, and it is hardly likely that he will consent to the operation being performed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 6.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 57. Political.)

Bosná-Serai, August 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on the afternoon of Sunday, the 18th instant, the Austrian troops appeared before Serajevo. The majority of the townspeople were in favour of immediate surrender, and Hafiz Pasha repaired again to the Austrian head-quarters to communicate this decision to General Philippovich, and to beg him not to hold the town responsible for any resistance that might possibly be offered by some fanatics with the aid of the vagabonds and scum of the town. Hafiz Pasha remained at Austrian head-quarters.

In the meantime Hadji Yamakovic, already alluded to in my previous despatches, and a certain Ahmet Effendi Nako, exerted all their influence to make the Mussulmans resist the entry of the Austrians into Serajevo, and when at daybreak on Monday, the 19th, these latter began to advance on the town, they met with a most unexpected resistance. Cannon had been placed on several of the surrounding heights, but what number of Turks were under arms it is impossible to say, although it is supposed not more than 3,000 or 4,000, and yet it was only after seven hours' continuous fighting that the town was occupied by the Austrians. The resistance was maintained even in many of the streets, and the troops were fired on from the windows of the houses. The Turks must have suffered severely, as at several points they stood their ground well against overpowering numbers. I have been told that not less than 1,500 were killed and wounded; but as up to the present moment many still lie where they fell, whether dead or merely wounded, as the Turks fear to compromise themselves by looking after them, it is impossible to make a correct estimate of their loss. The Austrians have, I am told, upwards of 500 wounded in hospital, and it is believed that not less than 150 were killed.

The town was not much damaged during the attack, although shells fell in all parts of it, killing some few people, and here and there setting light to the houses. Fortunately, it was a fine day, without wind, and the fires did not spread. There were probably in all not more than forty or fifty houses burnt, chiefly small buildings in the outskirts of the town.

At 1·15 P.M. the Austrian flag was hoisted at the small fort which stands on an eminence between the upper and lower towns, and in the course of the afternoon General Philippovich made his entry into Serajevo and established himself at the konak. The troops bivouacked for the night in the streets.

The same day notice was given that all arms in the possession of the people must be given up within three days, and now perquisitions are being made in all the houses to see that none have been concealed. These perquisitions are carried out without any consideration for the people, many of whom complain bitterly of the robbery of valuables by the soldiers while searching for arms.

No attempt appears to be made at present to conciliate the Mussulmans. Every one found with arms upon him is treated as a rebel, although it is well known that the majority are as innocent as the Christians of any wish to oppose the Austrians. The mode of procedure, however, of the Austrian military authorities, and their extreme severity against the Mussulmans as a class, will completely estrange the sympathies of those hitherto favourable to the occupation.

Amongst the prisoners, all of whom are kept in the open Christian burial-ground, with no shelter from either sun or rain, and with barely sufficient food to keep them from starvation, are several little children under 10 years of age, as well as aged persons incapable of bearing arms. The Austrians do not, in fact, treat their Turkish prisoners one whit better than the Turkish Government did the insurgent prisoners.

In spite, also, of the repeated representations of my colleagues and myself, the Turkish soldiers, including two Yuzbashis or Captains, who on the outbreak of the late disturbances were placed by the authorities as guards at the several Consulates, and who faithfully discharged their duty up to the last moment, were, on the entry of the Austrians into the town, immediately disarmed and made prisoners, and are likewise kept in the open burial-ground and treated no better than the other prisoners. This has produced a very bad impression in the place.

All Turkish officials, with the exception of the Chief of the Police, have been turned adrift; and the Government chest, containing, it is said, about 2,000,000 piastres and other moneys, has been taken possession of without any accounts being asked for

or any receipts given. The promises contained in the Proclamation, copy and translation of which I inclosed in my despatch No. 53, Political, of the 3rd instant, and copies of which have even been stuck about the town since the entry of the Austrian troops, are entirely disregarded, and there is no longer any attempt to disguise the fact that the country is being permanently annexed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 7.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 141. Political.)
Bucharest, August 22, 1878.

My Lord,

THE anxiety of this Government on the subject of the Dobrudscha, as reported by me to your Lordship in my previous despatch of the 6th instant, still continues, and it is stated that the accession of the new territory on the other side of the Danube may prove a source of strength or weakness to this country, and that this will greatly depend on the boundary which will be assigned between this new accession of territory and Bulgaria.

Much importance is assigned here to the possession of Silistria, and to the line which will be adopted as a boundary between that town and the port of Mangalia, and the Government is most desirous to give to the Powers that signed the Treaty of Berlin, and who are supposed to be interested in the future peace and prosperity of these countries, such explanations on the subject as may secure to their views the support of the Commissioners of these Powers when the boundary will come to a definitive settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 8.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 143. Political.)
Bucharest, August 23, 1878.

My Lord,

M. COGALNICEANO, the Foreign Minister of Roumania, left Bucharest a few days ago for Paris, by way of Vienna, and assigned private reasons as the sole cause of his absence from his official duties.

His friends admit, however, that he may extend his journey to Italy, as well as to Germany, though they say that this is uncertain.

There can be no doubt that, should an opportunity present itself to M. Cogalniceano, he will endeavour to represent to foreign Governments, friendly to this country, the opportunity they may have to give greater security to Roumania when the Boundary Commission will have to fix the exact line of its future frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 9.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 730.)
St. Petersburgh, August 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I CALLED to-day at the Foreign Department to communicate to M. de Giers the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, and to inquire whether the Russian Government would consent to the nomination of a Consular Commission, whose duty it should be to hear the complaints of the Mussulman population in Bulgaria, and to protect them when injured or menaced.

As M. de Giers always asks in important matters for a Memorandum or note which he can submit to the Emperor, I had prepared, and I left with him, the note, copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship.

His Excellency listened with visible impatience to the words in which I inquired whether the Russian Government would consent to the proposed Commission, and when I had finished he exclaimed at once: "Impossible; in Bulgaria we are at home, and such a Commission as you propose would be an insult to the Russian army. I will, however, submit your question to the Emperor, although I am certain he will never consent."

I interrupted M. de Giers to remark that the Russians could not be said to be at home in Bulgaria. They were there only for a certain time under the Treaty of Berlin.

To this his Excellency replied by inquiring whether Her Majesty's Government would have thought, during the German occupation of France after the Peace had been signed, of suggesting to Prince Bismarck the creation of a Consular Commission to verify the numerous complaints brought by the French against the German army.

His Excellency then proceeded with some warmth to complain of the readiness with which he feared Her Majesty's Government accepted the many stories which reach them from Constantinople.

Outrages, which nobody could deplore more than the Russian Government, had no doubt been committed on the Mussulman population; but it was intolerable that gentlemen like Prince Labanoff or Count Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, who were doing all in their power to prevent disorder, and to protect impartially all classes and creeds, should be considered capable of permitting such outrages as had been reported by Her Majesty's Consuls.

The Congress of Berlin, his Excellency went on to say, entrusted the administration of Bulgaria for a certain number of months to the Russian authorities; they, therefore, were responsible for its proper government, and they could not be expected to tolerate the interference of foreign Consuls in the various measures which the commanding officers might deem it necessary to take.

His Excellency then spoke of the hostility towards Russia which had been shown by the Commission appointed to inquire into the alleged outrages in the Rhodope district, and said that the experience there acquired was not such as to induce the Imperial Government to accept other Commissions of a similar nature.

I observed to his Excellency that I could not concur in the justice of his remarks, which seemed to me to be based on the assumption that the Consular Commission to which the consent of Russia was now desired would be a slight upon the Russian military authorities, as implying that they did not do what they might to protect the Mussulman population.

There I could not agree with him. In this matter the object of the Imperial Government must be the same as that of Her Majesty's Government, viz., to obtain as soon as possible, the pacification of the Eastern provinces of Europe; therefore he ought not to object to the assistance which the proposed Commission would give in the detection and examination of individual cases of crime and injustice, which, otherwise, might escape the notice of the Russian generals, whose attention would, more especially, be devoted to military matters.

M. de Giers declined this view of the proposal, but said he would refer my inquiry to the Emperor, and give me an answer as soon as he had received His Majesty's instructions.

As M. de Giers evidently wished to avoid discussion, and as, moreover, your Lordship's telegram desired me to obtain the consent of Russia to a Consular Commission for the protection of the Mussulman population in Bulgaria, and therefore, I presume, to a Commission additional to that foreseen in Article VI of the Treaty of Berlin, I deemed it would be useless for me to remind his Excellency that, according to the Treaty, the right to assist the Russian Commissary in Bulgaria was already secured to the Consuls of the Powers which had signed that instrument.

I was also afraid that his Excellency might mistake the object of my reference to Article VI, and think that I was suggesting the outline of a compromise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Mr. Plunkett to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel, *St. Petersburgh, August* $\frac{19}{31}$, 1878.

I REGRET to have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government learn that during the continuance of the provisional state of things in Bulgaria the Mussulman population of that province, more especially in the neighbourhood of Varna and of Shumla, are being treated with the greatest cruelty and injustice.

In compliance with the instructions which I have received from the Marquis of Salisbury I have the honour to bring the above facts to your Excellency's notice, and I am further instructed to inquire whether under these circumstances the Imperial Government would consent to the nomination of a Consular Commission, whose duty it would be to examine the complaints of the Mussulman population, and to protect them when injured or menaced.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT

No. 10.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 736.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 25, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 730 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the reply which I have received from M. de Giers to the inquiry which, in compliance with your Lordship's telegraphic instruction of the 21st, I had made of his Excellency whether Russia would consent to a Consular Commission being appointed to protect the Mussulman population of Bulgaria from menace or injury.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Russian Government refuses to consent to the nomination of any Consular Commission to examine complaints of the Mussulman population and to protect them from violence or menace in the portion of Bulgaria occupied by the Imperial troops. That duty devolves upon the Russian authorities, who will know how to fulfil it.

M. de Giers then refers to the Rhodope Commission as an example that such measures, so far from appeasing, only increase the excitement, and he asserts that the foreign Consuls have ample opportunity of assisting the Imperial authorities by reporting only such facts as are well authenticated, and in that case redress will be given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 10.

M. de Giers to Mr. Plunkett.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *St. Pétersbourg, le* 12 *Août*, 1878.

J'AI reçu la note que vous m'avez adressée le $\frac{10}{22}$ courant.

Le Cabinet Impérial ne saurait absolument pas consentir à la nomination d'une Commission Consulaire chargée d'examiner les plaintes de la population Musulmane et de la protéger contre toute violence ou menace dans la partie de la Bulgarie occupée par les troupes Russes.

Ce devoir incombe aux autorités Impériales: elles sauront le remplir.

L'exemple de la Commission du Rhodope a, d'ailleurs, malheureusement prouvé que de pareilles mesures, loin de concourir à l'apaisement, ne servent qu'à exciter les esprits.

Les Consuls étrangers en Bulgarie sont parfaitement à même d'assister les autorités Impériales dans la tâche de pacifier le pays en s'abstenant d'accueillir et d'accréditer des témoignages suspects, et en se bornant à signaler les faits authentiques qui

parviennent à leur connaissance. Ils peuvent être certains qu'en pareil cas les griefs fondés seront redressés.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 11.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 740.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 27, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram of this day, announcing that the Russian Consuls-General at Bucharest and Belgrade, as well as the Russian Agent in Montenegro, have been raised to the rank of Ministers-Resident, I think it right to mention that these nominations would appear to have been decided upon rather suddenly.

M. de Giers has never spoken to me on the subject; but I learn from my German and Italian colleagues that he inquired of them what their respective Governments were going to do with regard to the rank of their Agents in those countries, and gave them to understand that Russia would not take the initiative, but would do the same as the other Great Powers.

The policy of Russia towards Roumania has wavered from day to day since the close of the war, according as the influence of Prince Gortchakow, who is most hostile to her, or that of M. de Giers, who is less vindictive, and who himself was for many years the Russian Agent at Bucharest, was felt at the Foreign Department. The nomination, therefore, of a Minister-Resident only at Bucharest, when Austria is said to have named Count Hoyos as Envoy Extraordinary there, is here universally attributed to the determination of the Chancellor to show his displeasure at the opposition made by the Roumanians to the various demands which have been put forward by Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 12.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 715.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 24, 1878.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 20th instant, communicating copy of a telegram received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I called upon M. de Giers, and informed him that Mr. St. Clair complained that the Russian troops had been attacking the Mussulman population on Mount Rhodope, and that it seemed to me that such an attack was in contradiction with the promise which the Emperor had given to your Lordship through Count Schouvaloff that they should not be molested as long as they did not assail His Majesty's forces.

M. de Giers at once acknowledged the promise which I had quoted, and insisted that there must be some mistake. Positive orders had been sent not to molest the refugees as long as they remained quietly in their own district. He would, however, inquire into the matter, and he begged me to give him in writing the substance of what I had heard.

Not having been instructed by your Lordship to make any complaint on this matter, I thought it better to address to M. de Giers only the unofficial letter, copy of which is herewith inclosed.

In the course of the brief interview which I had with M. de Giers, he accused the Rhodope refugees of not keeping their part of the bargain, and said that they were openly making preparations hostile to the Russian troops, which the latter could not be expected to tolerate.

I said that the information which I had received was to a different effect, but that, in any case, as we might now hope that the prompt meeting of the Eastern Roumelian Organization Commission would contribute to pacify those regions, I

trusted the Russian Government would do all it could to restore confidence there for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Mr. Plunkett to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel, *St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{2}{14}$ Août*, 1878.

CONFORMÉMENT au désir que votre Excellence m'a exprimé dans l'entretien que je viens d'avoir avec elle, je m'empresse de lui répéter par écrit que j'apprends par télégraphe du Marquis de Salisbury que l'Ambassade Anglaise à Constantinople a été informée que les troupes Impériales auraient attaqué la population Musulmane et les réfugiés dans les Montagnes du Rhodope.

Comme un tel fait paraîtrait être en contradiction avec la promesse que les réfugiés ne seraient pas attaqués tant qu'ils s'abstiennent de leur côté de toute attaque contre les troupes Russes, j'ai porté sans délai cette nouvelle à votre connaissance dans l'espoir que le Gouvernement de l'Empereur prendrait les dispositions nécessaires pour empêcher le renouvellement de conflits qu'on pensait avoir apaisés dans l'intérêt de l'humanité et de la paix générale.

(Signé) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 13.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 749.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 28, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to call your Lordship's attention to the creation at Philippopolis of a new Slav newspaper, the "Maritsa," which is published in Bulgarian, and is intended to increase the dissemination of Russian ideas in that province.

The inclosed extract from the "Novoie Vremya" will show what benefits the Russian press expect will be derived from this new organ.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Extract from the "Novoie Vremya."

LE JOURNAL BULGARE "LA MARITSA."—Le "Nouveau Temps" annonce l'apparition d'un journal qui s'imprime en langue Bulgare à Philippopoli: "La Maritsa." L'apparition de ce journal a devancé celle de l'organe Russe que l'Administration nous avait promis de publier, lorsqu'à peine notre armée avait franchi les Balkans. Pendant toute une année la Bulgarie est restée sans organe de publicité. L'initiative Bulgare vient de combler cette lacune. Nous espérons, ajoute le "Nouveau Temps" que:—

"Maintenant, nous autres Russes, nous allons pouvoir entrer en communication d'idées avec des peuples frères qui apprendront ainsi à nous estimer et à nous aimer. La description des hauts faits accomplis par les armes Russes à leur profit, description écrite en langue Bulgare, contribuera à populariser le nom d'Alexandre II, libérateur des peuples. Le rédacteur de la 'Maritsa,' M. Hatchévitch, est l'un des meilleurs écrivains politiques de la Bulgarie. Il a fait ses études à Paris où il a reçu son diplôme de licencié en droit et a passé ses années d'exil à Vienne. Il possède parfaitement notre littérature. Le premier numéro de la 'Maritsa' reproduit le Traité de Berlin et en explique toute l'économie; il s'applique à faire tomber toutes les fausses interprétations que la malveillance à pu faire courir."

No. 14.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 504. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August* 31, 1878.

M. DE RADOWITZ told me this morning that at last Germany was losing patience at the procrastinating attitude deliberately assumed by Turkey, and that he had received special instructions from the Imperial Chancellor to draw up a Circular on the subject to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin. His Imperial and Royal Highness the Crown Prince had expressed himself to him in the same sense.

This Circular would call the attention of the Powers to the fact that Turkey was not carrying out the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, and that she was making delay after delay in the vain hope that the jealousy or disaccord she supposed to exist among the great Powers would prevent any joint action on their part. This was more especially the case as regards her conduct towards Greece and Montenegro; and Germany could not any longer passively submit to a Treaty to which she had set her name being disregarded.

She would consequently invite the co-Signatory Powers to the Treaty of Berlin to instruct their Representatives at Constantinople to use identic language to the Porte, and to assure the Turkish Government that the Powers expected her to carry out the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin without any further delay.

M. de Radowitz said he should address the note to Count Münster, by whom it would be communicated to your Lordship, by whom he trusted the project would be favourably received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 15.

Memorandum.—(Communicated by Count Deym, September 2, 1878.)

NOUS sommes disposés à accepter le 13 Septembre comme terme de la réunion de la Commission pour l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, ainsi que des Commissions de Délimitation pour la Bulgarie, la Servie, et la Roumélie Orientale; quant à la réunion de la Commission de Délimitation pour le Monténégro, nous proposons de ne pas en fixer encore le terme, la situation actuelle ne permettant guère l'exécution de sa tâche et un court délai paraissant être inévitable.

Nous allons nommer M. Kallay, ci-devant Consul-Général et Agent Diplomatique comme Délégué à la Commission d'Organisation pour la Roumélie Orientale; le Lieutenant-Colonel Baron Ripp et le Capitaine Comte Wurmbrand comme Commissaires pour la Délimitation de la Bulgarie; le Major de Billimek pour la Servie; le Consul-Général Lippich et le Capitaine Sauerwald ont été désignés pour le Monténégro.

Les trois premiers pourront se trouver à Constantinople le 13 Septembre; le Major Billimek pourra arriver à la même date à Belgrade; et les deux derniers peuvent se rendre à tout moment à Raguse.

A notre avis, la Commission de Délimitation pour la Bulgarie pourrait également être chargée des travaux de Délimitation pour la Roumélie; si, cependant, les Puissances avaient l'intention de désigner des Commissaires spéciaux pour ces travaux, nous pourrions à cet effet détacher le Comte Wurmbrand.

Communiquez ce qui précède au Gouvernement Britannique, avec prière de vouloir nous faire connaître sa manière de voir, et les dispositions qu'il a prises à ce sujet, afin que nous puissions sans retard nous mettre d'accord sur la manière de procéder par rapport à ces Commissions, ce qui nous paraît indispensable.

No. 16.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 2, 1878.*

AUSTRIAN Government have named four military officers as members of the Delimitation Commissions for Bulgaria, Eastern Roumelia, Servia, and Montenegro.

They do not, however, consider it possible in the present state of the country that the Montenegrin Frontier Commission can commence work.

No. 17.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 2, 1878.*

AUSTRIAN Agent informs me that Delegates from the Great Powers are to meet on the 13th instant, to commence tracing new Servian Frontier. Austrian Delegate will arrive here almost immediately on his way to (?)

No mention having been made of this International Commission in Berlin Treaty, Servian Government were under the impression this question was to be settled directly between them and the Porte.

No. 18.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's No. 413 of the 17th July, Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs sent instructions yesterday to Minister at Constantinople to ask for an answer to Greek note, and to state that a refusal to answer, or delay in doing so, will be considered as a denial to carry out the recommendations of the late Congress, and an appeal would at once be made by Greece to the Great Powers for their mediation.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 19.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September 2, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Government again attempting to re-establish alliance with Prince of Roumania for some ulterior object, and as the Prince is very sensitive, advantage is taken of the absence of any one here invested with representative character from any other Power except Russia.

No. 20.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 2, 1878.*

MR. CALVERT reported from Philippopolis on the 8th ultimo that Hadji Arif Agha, the most influential Turkish notable, seventy years of age, had been arrested and thrown into prison by Russo-Bulgarian police, and was confined in the dungeon reserved for the worst criminals, and denied communication with his friends and relatives.

His imprisonment was said to be on account of participation in formation of irregular corps who accompanied Turkish troops in expedition to Carlowa and Kalofer last autumn. Mr. Calvert believes the charge to be founded only on suspicion. The man had given surety for good behaviour in a document signed by fourteen friends.

Grand Vizier informs Sir H. Layard that this man has now been condemned to death. His Highness has protested to Russian Embassy in the name of justice and humanity. In conformity with Treaties of San Stefano and Berlin, Porte has granted a general amnesty to Bulgarians, who have been everywhere released.

Bring the facts before the Russian Government, and urge them to remit, or at least respite, sentence of death, urging the fact that the accused is a man of great age and high character; that his offence, if true, was committed during the war; and that military law is on the point of being superseded by regular Tribunals under a settled Civil Government.

No. 21.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 2, 1878.*

PETITION from Lazistan of the 6th August just received. Reply that England, having been a party to the Treaty of Berlin, can sanction no proceedings inconsistent with it.

Her Majesty's Government cannot therefore support or encourage any resistance to the Russian occupation of Batoum.

No. 22.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 462.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 2, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to you, in my despatch No. 474 of this day's date, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in the first inclosure of which you will find a report from Mr. Calvert of the summary arrest and imprisonment of Hadji Arif Agha, the most influential Turkish notable of Philippopolis, and until recently one of the richest inhabitants of the district. Mr. Calvert states that although seventy years of age, he has been confined in the dungeon reserved for the worst malefactors, and has been denied the privilege of communicating with, or receiving provisions or other assistance from his friends and relatives. It would seem that the charge against him is that of having taken part in the formation of a body of irregulars, who accompanied the Turkish troops in their expedition to Carlowa and Kalofer last August, and were then guilty of massacres and excesses. Mr. Calvert believed, however, that the charge rested solely on suspicion, and he states that Hadji Arif Agha had, on his return to Philippopolis, furnished the security for his good behaviour required by the Russian police, in the form of a written document signed by fourteen of his friends.

Sir H. Layard has telegraphed to me to say that he hears from the Grand Vizier that Hadji Arif Agha has been condemned to death. His Highness stated that he had protested to the Russian Embassy against this sentence as contrary to justice and humanity, and he contrasted with it the conduct of the Porte, which, in compliance with the Treaties of San Stefano and Berlin, had granted a general amnesty to all Bulgarians accused of political offences, and released everywhere the prisoners detained on that account.

I have instructed you by telegraph to bring the facts to the knowledge of the Russian Government, and to urge them to remit or at least respite the sentence of death passed on Hadji Arif Agha, advancing, in support of your representations, the fact that the accused is a man of great age and high character, that the offence alleged against him, if true, was committed during a time of war, and that so stringent an exercise of authority is greatly to be deprecated at a time when military law is on the point of being superseded by a settled Civil Government, and regularly constituted Tribunals.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 23.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 100. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, August* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that 400 Mussulman Abazian emigrants, who had settled last year at Batoum, having obtained permission from the Russian Government to return to their native land, departed a week ago for Sookoomkaleh on board country sailing boats.

These emigrants were induced to return to Russia owing to their finding no means of living at Batoum, and their receiving no longer rations from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—*August* 16.—I hear to-day that the Abazian emigrants mentioned above have returned to Batoum by order of the Russian authorities at Sookoomkaleh, who refused to allow them to land there.

A. B.

No. 24.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 101. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, August* 14, 1878.

WE have had since some time no important news from Erzeroum.

The Mussulmans continue to emigrate daily for other parts of Anatolia. The number of families that have already departed is stated to amount to nearly 6,000, and the few still remaining intend to emigrate before the bad season sets in should the Russians decide to spend the winter at Erzeroum.

The Russian troops in and round that town are said to number about 15,000. Their sanitary condition has much improved; they have been free from typhus.

Erzeroum does not seem to be a favourite place of residence with the Russians, who look anxiously for orders to evacuate the place, an eventuality which is subordinate, at all events, to the surrender of Batoum.

I have been unable to obtain fresh reliable information on the Turkish troops in Armenia.

Yesterday 150 Albanian deserters, who were landed by the transport "Sheref Kessam," departed to join the forces at Erzinghian.

The number of recruits forwarded up to date from this province to Constantinople is about 2,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 25.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 103. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, August* 16, 1878.

PASSENGERS arrived to-day from Batoum report that its evacuation was spoken of as being fixed to take place very shortly. It was even rumoured that transports were on their way to embark the Turkish forces, and that Russian steamers were ready at Poti to convoy troops in the port of Batoum.

However, the Governor-General, whom I saw in the course of the day, had no information whatever on the subject.

According to the reports of the passengers, the Turkish troops were being concentrated at Batoum, and the guns, munitions, and other military stores got ready for embarkation. In presence of these preparations the Laz were quite discouraged, and many of them are said to have given up all idea of resistance, a report contradicted by other parties.

The only fact that can be taken as a beginning of the evacuation of Batoum by the Turks is the arrival this afternoon from that place, on board the transport "Sheref Kessam," of a number of tents and other military stores, and of 200 sick soldiers accompanied by part of the medical staff of the hospital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 26.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 58. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, August* 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Hafiz Pasha, late Commander of the forces in Bosnia, and Acting Civil Governor since the expulsion by the people of the Vali Mazhar Pasha, was sent under arrest to Brod on the 22nd instant by General Philippovich.

I beg to inclose herein copy of a letter on the subject addressed to me by Hafiz Pasha, inclosing copy of one received by him from General Philippovich and of his answer thereto.

In my previous despatches I have already expressed to your Lordship my opinion as to Hafiz Pasha's conduct. It cannot be denied that he did all in his power, as he states in his letter to me, to prevent excesses and to protect the lives and property of the foreign Consuls and their subjects. To maintain prefect order in the country he had undoubtedly not sufficient trustworthy troops at his command, and his hands were apparently tied as to the use of those he had by instructions from Constantinople. Hafiz Pasha repeatedly demanded reinforcements by telegraph, but could obtain no reply from the Porte to his demands, and your Lordship will probably remember that I telegraphed, at his request, on the 16th ultimo, his urgent need of ten battalions, to ensure the maintenance of order in Bosnia during the entry of the Austrians troops.

Under these circumstances it seems hard that Hafiz Pasha should be held responsible for the opposition offered to the Austrian occupation of the country, and should be treated with so little consideration by the Commander of the Austrian forces. It is to be hoped, however, that at the impartial examination to which he will undoubtedly be eventually subjected by the Austrian military authorities, proof will be forthcoming to show who is really to blame in the matter. I should state that here Hafiz Pasha has been subjected to no formal examination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Hafiz Pasha to Acting Consul Freeman.

M. le Consul, *Serajévo, le* 21 *Août*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de vous envoyer ci-jointes les copies des deux lettres échangées entre son Excellence Philippovic et moi, en vous priant de les transmettre à votre honorable Gouvernement.

Comme témoin oculaire et impartial, vous savez, M. le Consul, que je suis venu à Serajévo au milieu d'une anarchie toujours croissante; mon prédécesseur, son Excellence Veli Pacha, avait été chassé de son commandement militaire par une émeute de peuple armé, vous savez aussi tout l'effort, sans succès, que j'ai fait pour réprimer le soulèvement publique de 27 Juillet, 1878, et tout le danger qu'a couru mon existence, et vous savez, aussi, tout mon dévouement et toute l'abnégation de moi-même pour conserver la vie de son Excellence Mazhar Pacha, de Constant Pasha, de leur suite, et celle de M. le Consul d'Autriche, de sa suite, de ses nationaux, et vous connaissez, enfin, l'immense danger que courait toujours ma vie et l'effort que j'ai fait pour ne pas faire manquer du respect dû aux Consulats des Puissances, et le travail continuel que j'ai fait pour préserver l'honneur, la vie, les biens tant des étrangers que des Chrétiens et des Musulmans innocents, et préserver les églises de toute insulte. Grâce à Dieu, après un bon et complet résultat obtenu, vous voyez, M. le Consul, de quelle

manière est traité cet homme, ce fonctionnaire de la Turquie, par le Général-en-chef de l'armée d'une Puissance amie de mon Gouvernement.

En m'adressant à votre justice, M. le Consul, je vous prie de faire votre rapport détaillé à votre respectable Gouvernement sur ma conduite durant mon court séjour à Serajévo.

Veuillez, &c.
Général de Division,
(Signé) HAFIZ.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

General Philippovich to Hafiz Pasha.

Serajévo, le 20 Août, 1878.

Excellence,

VU la position extrêmement délicate et même pénible dans laquelle votre Excellence se trouve par suite des événements militaires-politiques, je crois me conformer à vos désirs en vous invitant de vouloir bien quitter après-demain, le 22 de ce mois, la ville de Serajévo et de vous rendre sous escorte à Brood.

Dans cette forteresse, votre Excellence pourra attendre, sous la protection du Commandant de la place, les décisions que mon Gouvernement prendra à votre égard.

Le Commandant de l'escorte aura l'honneur de se présenter chez vous après-demain à 7 heures du matin.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Général-en-chef, Commandant le 13me Corps d'Armée en Bosnie,
(Signé) PHILIPPOVICH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 26.

Hafiz Pasha to General Philippovich.

Serajévo, le 21 Août, 1878.

Excellence,

J'AI reçu votre lettre datée le 20 Août, 1878.

En exprimant à votre Excellence mon étonnement d'un pareil procédé à mon égard, je dois me soumettre à la force tout en protestant et en préservant tout mon droit de me plaindre à mon Gouvernement, et de m'adresser en même temps au jugement impartial des Grandes Puissances de l'Europe qui ont été représentées au haut Congrès de Berlin.

Mon désir, Excellence, n'étant autre, comme fonctionnaire d'une Puissance amie de la vôtre, que de me rendre là où mon Gouvernement aura voulu que je me rendis.

Veuillez, &c.
Général de Division,
(Signé) HAFIZ.

No. 27.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 3.*)

(No. 32. Political.)

Ragusa, August 27, 1878.

My Lord,

DANISH EFFENDI, the Turkish Consul-General at Ragusa, has just returned from Trebinje, where he had been sent by his Government to report on the state of affairs in that town.

His journey there and back was attended with considerable danger, and he may be congratulated on having fulfilled his mission and returned in safety to his family.

It appears that he was several hours in the hands of the insurgents, who gave him to understand that should he again venture to cross the frontier he would be summarily dealt with, and that even a Firman from his Sultan would not save him. As a warning they fired two shots, to see how close they could aim without hitting!

Danish Effendi tells me that Trebinje is in a state of anarchy.

One Hadj Ali Effendi, an old man nearly 80 years of age, is the leader of the insurrection, his object being to oppose the Austrian troops.

The official Governor is compelled to bow to the will of Hadj Ali, who gives it out that he has been inspired by Heaven. Though a fanatic and a madman he exercises the greatest influence over the Mussulman population by distributing pamphlets purporting to be prophecies, according to which the Austrian army is to be annihilated and Dalmatia conquered by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Suleyman Pasha, commanding 3,000 Turkish troops, is still at Trebinje, where he is kept almost a prisoner by Hadj Ali, who has stopped all communication.

On my asking Danish Effendi how it was that 3,000 regulars allowed themselves to be hemmed in by a lot of rebels, he replied that the first shot fired would be the signal for a civil war, the effect of which would be most disastrous to the Ottoman cause; and that it was Suleyman's firm intention to remain passive until the arrival of the Austrians, when he would facilitate their entrance into Trebinje, on condition that he and his troops might be allowed to retain their arms and be embarked at some port on the Dalmatian coast with all the honours of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 28.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 3.*)

(No. 688.)

Paris, September 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter addressed to Lord Lyons by the Secretary of the Roumanian Agency in Paris, inclosing copies of two documents relating to the question of the delimitation of the frontier between the Dobrudscha and Bulgaria.

I beg to transmit these inclosures in original to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

The Secretary of the Roumanian Agency in Paris to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 31 Août, 1878.

My Lord,

M'E conformant à des instructions que je reçois de M. Callimaki Catargi, qui est actuellement absent, je m'empresse de placer sous les yeux de votre Excellence les deux pièces annexées à la présente; elles ont trait à la question si importante pour la Roumanie, de la délimitation de la ligne frontière entre la Dobrudscha et la Bulgarie.

La première de ces pièces est la copie d'une note de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie adressée à l'Agent Diplomatique de la Principauté à Vienne.

La seconde est la copie d'un Rapport de M. le Colonel Falcoïano, qui avait été chargé d'une mission dans la région du Danube, vers Cahrus et Silistrie.

Les conclusions du Rapport qui est le résultat d'une étude impartiale de la localité, confirment en tous points celles de la note de M. Kogalnicesano.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. J. MERCESCO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Bukharest, le , 1878.

Monsieur,

DANS une de vos récentes communications vous avez bien voulu m'informer que son Excellence M. le Comte Andrassy nous engageait à essayer d'obtenir le plus de terrain possible du côté de Silistrie.

Cette exhortation de la part du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Autriche-Hongrie paraît équivaloir à une promesse indirecte de son Gouvernement de recommander le soin des intérêts Roumains à ses Représentants dans la Commission qui sera chargée de fixer les nouvelles limites en Bulgarie.

J'ai donc confiance qu'il vous suffira d'invoquer vis-à-vis de M. le Comte Andrassy ses propres paroles pour que, le cas échéant, son appui nous soit acquis dans les questions ci-dessous exposées.

L'Article XLVI du Traité de Berlin porte :—

"La Principauté reçoit en outre le territoire situé au sud de la Dobrudscha jusqu'à une ligne ayant son point de départ de l'est de Silistrie et aboutissant à la Mer Noire au sud de Mangalia."

Ainsi, selon la lettre du Traité, la ligne destinée à former la nouvelle frontière n'est désignée que par deux points, les deux points extrêmes.

Cette ligne ne peut donc être géométriquement que la plus courte d'un point à l'autre, c'est-à-dire une ligne droite.

Si l'on examine les idées qui ont présidé à la rédaction de l'Article XLVI, si l'on étudie l'esprit du Traité à cet égard, si l'on consulte les discussions préliminaires de la Commission de Délimitation instituée à Berlin et le texte des Protocoles qui sont les commentaires authentiques du Traité, on est conduit à la même conclusion.

En effet, il résulte du Protocole No. 15 (séance du 8 Juillet, 1878) que sur une motion du Président demandant, "Si le Congrès accepte . . . (2) la ligne de Silistrie à Mangalia; (3) l'attribution des détails à l'étude d'une Commission Européenne, la Haute Assemblée donne son assentiment à ces propositions."

De même que le Traité, le Protocole ne mentionne que les deux points d'attache de la ligne et ne parle pas d'un troisième point intermédiaire qui formerait le sommet d'un angle rentrant dans la Dobrudscha et impliquerait une brisure de la ligne.

Enfin, je tiens de bonne source les renseignements suivants sur les idées qui ont guidé la Commission dans l'élaboration des projets à adopter par le Congrès :

Dans les discussions au sujet de l'annexion de Mangalia à la Dobrudscha et de l'extension de cette province vers Silistrie, tous les membres de la Commission, à l'exception des Représentants de la Russie, reconnaissant qu'une frontière naturelle et stratégique était impossible, ont donné leur assentiment au tracé d'une ligne directe qui, partant du sud de Mangalia, d'une distance d'environ cinq kilom. de ce port, aboutirait sur le Danube à l'est et à proximité de Silistrie.

Ils ont de plus admis que ce point d'attache sur le Danube devait presque toucher à Silistrie, car c'est seulement par cet endroit que la Roumanie pourrait facilement communiquer avec la nouvelle province.

Plus à l'est, les marais, lacs, et îles désignés sous le nom de Balta qui avoisinent Calaras, rendraient très-difficiles les communications entre l'ancienne et la nouvelle rive Roumaines. Le meilleur emplacement pour un pont serait, selon la majorité de la Commission, les environs mêmes de Silistrie.

Les Russes combattant ces arguments ont fait valoir des considérations ethnographiques en faveur d'un tracé formé par deux lignes qui, partant l'une du sud de Mangalia, l'autre à l'est de Silistrie, s'enfonceraient dans la Dobrudscha de façon à se rencontrer à Kusghun.

Mais la Commission n'a pas jugé à propos de s'arrêter aux égards que la Russie témoignait pour les principes ethnographiques dans une région si voisine de la Bessarabie, où il était fait table rase de ces mêmes principes.

Il est à noter que le Congrès dans sa procédure générale a toujours regardé les décisions prises à la majorité par cette Commission comme obligatoires, et les a toujours respectées et sanctionnées.

Le texte de l'Article XLVI atteste que dans le cas particulier qui nous occupe la même méthode a prévalu.

Mais il ne suffirait pas que la rectitude de la ligne de Mangalia à Silistrie fût maintenue.

Il faudrait encore que le point d'attache de cette ligne sur le Danube fût porté à l'ouest de Silistrie.

En effet, il est de toute nécessité qu'une voie de communication permanente relie vers Silistrie les deux rives Roumaines du Danube. Cette nécessité, dont l'existence se démontre d'elle-même par les exigences administratives et économiques, a été reconnue et proclamée à Berlin dans les séances de la Commission de Délimitation et dans la séance plénière du 8 Juillet.

Le Prince de Hohenlohe, le Baron de Haymerlé, et le Comte Schouvaloff lui-même ont été tour à tour très-catégoriques à ce sujet. Or, il ressort de l'inspection de la

région de Silistrie qu'en aval de cette ville l'établissement d'un mode de circulation permanent est impossible. Au contraire, en amont de Silistrie, les rives sont fermes, le lit est plus net d'obstacles, et la construction d'un pont qui partirait de la rive gauche pour aboutir sur la rive droite à un point situé entre Tataria et Aïdemir présenterait des conditions avantageuses et pourrait s'effectuer avec succès. Enfin, s'il fallait, à l'exemple de la Russie, invoquer dans ces parages des considérations ethnographiques il serait à observer que la majorité de la population Chrétienne de Silistrie se compose de Roumains.

On objectera peut-être que la fixation de ce frontière dans ces conditions nouvelles entraînerait une altération à l'Article XLVI du Traité de Berlin.

Mais il n'est pas sans précédents qu'un Traité ait été modifié quand l'application de ses dispositions a paru exiger des modifications, basées sur des convenances topographiques.

Sans vouloir citer ici les cas que l'histoire générale fournirait en abondance, je me bornerai à rappeler les changements successifs de la frontière en Bessarabie à l'occasion de la conclusion du Traité de Paris du 30 Mars, 1876.

Les Préliminaires de Paix signés à Vienne le 1er Fevrier, 1876, portaient l'indication d'un tracé, conforme aux intérêts généraux.

Dans la séance du 20 Mars, 1856, à Paris, le Congrès mettant fin aux discussions des séances précédentes, adopte le tracé décrit à l'Article XX du Traité de Paris. Enfin le 6 Janvier, 1857, un nouveau Protocole ayant force et valeur de Convention est substitué au texte antérieur, et règle sur de nouvelles bases la frontière en Bessarabie et la domination des îles du Delta du Danube, et de l'Ile des Serpents.

Voici le début de ce Protocole :—

Les Plénipotentiaires réunis en Conférence pour aviser aux moyens de mettre fin aux difficultés que la Commission de Délimitation chargé de l'exécution de l'Article 11 du Traité de Paris a rencontrées par suite de la disposition des lieux, "sont convenus entre autres rectifications d'attribuer la ville de Bolgrad à la Bessarabie-Moldave, et de laisser par contre à la Russie la ville de Komrat. Cette attribution était motivé par l'impossibilité où se seraient trouvées les populations Moldaves de communiquer de l'une à l'autre rive du Lac de Yalpuk. De même aujourd'hui c'est en raison des impossibilités résultant de la disposition des lieux que la Roumanie demande et espère se voir accorder l'adjonction de la ville de Silistrie au territoire de la Dobrudscha.

Telles sont, M. l'Agent, relativement au tracé de la frontière entre la Dobrudscha et la Bulgarie les questions sur lesquelles je désirais attirer particulièrement votre attention, afin que vous soyez en mesure de les recommander à l'examen approfondi du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois.

Nous devons nous attacher présentement :—

1. A éviter que les appoints stipulés pour nous à titre de consolation ne nous soient retirés en détail et par surprise.

2. A obtenir que la mise en valeur de ces appoints devienne possible par des adjonctions indispensables.

C'est à cette œuvre de précaution et de prévoyance que je vous prie d'employer votre entremise auprès de son Excellence M. le Comte Andrassy.

Sur la base de vos informations je crois pouvoir formuler de nouveau l'espoir que l'appui bienveillant et le puissant concours du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal ne nous manqueront pas en cette circonstance et que les Délégués Austro-Hongrois dans la Commission Européenne auront pour instruction de soutenir avec vigueur les intérêts de la Roumanie.

En résumé, le minimum de ces intérêts serait :—

1. Que la ligne formant la frontière entre la Dobrudscha et la Bulgarie ne subît aucune brisure à l'avantage de la Bulgarie et au préjudice de la Dobrudscha.

2. Que cette ligne, partant du sud de Mangalia, aboutît non à l'est mais à l'ouest de Silistrie, entre Tatarica et Aïdemir.

L'influente assistance du Cabinet Austro-Hongrois dans cette double question nous serait d'autant plus précieuse que je puis vous annoncer à titre confidentiel que nous avons lieu de compter sur l'adhésion sympathique de certaines Puissances à l'ordre d'idées où je suis entré.

En outre, il est urgent de réunir au plus tôt une majorité de Puissances favorables à cet ordre d'idées. Car il est à la connaissance du Gouvernement que lors de la rentrée des Chambres, qui est très-prochaine, une des principaux arguments à développer par les adversaires de l'annexion de la Dobrudscha sera la difficulté de communications entre l'ancienne et la nouvelle rive Roumaines, aux termes actuel du Traité de Berlin.

Cet argument tomberait si l'espoir de l'adjonction de Silistrie prenait une sérieuse consistance.

Agréez, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 28.

Colonel Falcoiano to General Ceruti.

(Traduction.)

Bukharest, le 24 Juillet, 1878.

Général,

EN exécution de votre Ordre No. 15,075 d'aller étudier quelle serait la communication la plus sûre entre Calaras et la Dobrudscha, j'ai l'honneur de vous rapporter qu'après m'être transporté sur les lieux je puis donner les informations détaillées qui suivent :—

Comme il appert du croquis ci-annexé, le Danube à droite de Silistrie, bifurque : le bras du nom de Boreca incline vers la gauche, arrive sous Calaras, de là se dirige vers le nord-est et rejoint le grand courant du Danube au-dessous de Harsova, formant ainsi une immense île nommée Ile Balta, d'une longueur d'environ 100 kilom. et d'une largeur moyenne de 8 à 10 kilom.

Cette île, comme l'indique son nom même, forme pendant la plus grande partie de l'année un véritable marais. Elle n'est accessible qu'après le retrait des eaux (étiage), au fort de l'été, et même alors il y reste par places de larges flaques disséminées et des ruisseaux qui empêchent une communication proprement dite.

En amont de Calaras le terrain sur une longueur d'environ 30 kilom. et une largeur moyenne de 6 à 7 kilom. est également très-marécageux, car il est envahi par deux grands lacs, l'Etang de Calaras et le Lac Boiana, entre lesquels même à l'époque des sécheresses, les communications sont extrêmement difficiles.

Ainsi sur une étendue de 30 kilom. en amont de Calaras et de 100 kilom. en aval, le seul point de communication qui soit possible avec la Dobrudscha se trouve à Calaras, par le bras de Boreca.

J'ai également étudié quel serait le point sur la rive droite du Danube avec lequel Calaras pourrait offrir ou permettre une communication sûre : comme il est expliqué plus bas, ce point ne peut être autre que Silistrie.

En effet, selon ce qui est exposé plus haut, la seule communication sûre de Calaras avec le grand courant du Danube est le bras de Boreca. Cette communication elle même dans la saison des basses eaux, ne permet la navigation que des barques ou des petits bâtiments : aussi, dans cette saison, la circulation se fait-elle à sec sur la rive gauche de la Boreca, où il existe même un commencement de chaussée qui conduit au point de Chieïn vis-à-vis de Silistrie.

Il est donc évident que ce point ne peut être rattaché sur la rive droite du Danube qu'à Silistrie, pour les motifs suivants :

1. Il se trouve en face de la seule communication sûre de la Roumanie avec le Danube pour une zône de 130 kilom. ;

2. S'il était choisi un autre point en aval de Silistrie, toute communication avec ce point se trouverait interrompue au temps où la navigation est suspendue ;

3. Enfin, et c'est là la considération la plus importante, Chieïn-Silistrie est le seul lieu propre à l'établissement d'un pont, car le Danube à cet endroit est étroit et coupé par une petite île située au milieu de son cours.

En ce qui concerne le choix d'un autre point, sur la rive droite du Danube en aval de Silistrie, sans parler des obstacles naturels que présentent les localités, une solution en ce sens ne deviendrait possible que moyennant l'exécution des travaux les plus considérables, tels que des ponts sur une étendue de plusieurs kilomètres des digues maçonnées, etc., qui ne permettraient encore que d'atteindre le bord du Danube. Il faut aussi tenir compte des installations nécessaires et autres constructions qui toutes entraînent de telles dépenses que je suis obligé de déclarer tout plan de ce genre extrêmement difficile et peu pratique.

En résumé, pour avoir une communication sûre entre la Roumanie et la Dobrudscha il est de toute nécessité que la ville de Silistrie entre dans le territoire cédé à la Roumanie, car ainsi qu'il a été montré plus haut, Silistrie se trouve être le seul point par où les deux parties du pays peuvent être reliées entre elles.

Le Chef de l'Etat-Major-Général,

(Signé) Colonel FALCOIANO.

No. 29.

Captain Fife to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(Confidential.)

London, September 3, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday on the protection of the Gallipoli Peninsula, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this morning received information from Gallipoli that Osman Nouri Pasha, commanding the Turkish army there, has received orders, in conjunction with Reshad Pasha, the Governor, to occupy with troops all the villages in the Province of Gallipoli as the Russians retire from them, so as to prevent collisions taking place between the inhabitants of different races and religions.

No doubt precautions with this object are most necessary ; but, at the same time, in view of the great number of villages in the district, which extends to Malgara on the east, Keshan on the north, and from there continues to the districts of Gumurjina and Sultan Yéré (both of which it includes), it is evident that the force required for such a purpose must be very large, and that its dispersion must render it incapable of sufficiently rapid concentration to resist an attack from the Russian troops, which would be already concentrated by retreat. Besides this, the garrison of Gallipoli must be so reduced by the arrangement as to be too weak to hold the lines against an attack, if, indeed, it is not entirely scattered in driblets over the country.

I think it therefore my duty to point out to your Lordship the very serious danger to the safety of the Gallipoli Peninsula which is about to arise on the retreat of the Russians from its immediate vicinity, as the Turkish garrison, scattered over the open country, will be entirely at the mercy of the invaders should they return suddenly and assail it ; and that this critical situation will be brought about in such a quiet and plausible manner that, were I not to notice it, perhaps it would escape observation until too late.

The greatest care will be required in carrying out the reoccupation of the open country, and I would suggest that it should be done on the following plan :—

That only the more important points should be occupied by the Turkish troops, half a battalion being placed at each, which would perhaps average 200 men. That the officers in command of these wings of battalions should be selected for their energy and judgment ; and where this cannot be done, a staff officer, senior to the chief regimental officer, should be appointed to command.

The commander at each centre would also have a particular district around it to watch, to which he would give notice on his arrival to that effect. A number of horses or baggage animals should be placed at the disposal of each detachment, in order that they may be able to mount the infantry, so as to overtake bands of marauders.

The points to be occupied as far as the Maritza would be Sharkui, Kadikui, Keshan, Malgara (if still attached to Gallipoli, and not retransferred to Rodosto), Enos, Ipsala ; also Feredjik and Dédéagatch, on the right bank of the stream.

Four battalions[a] would suffice for all this, and their retreat upon Gallipoli by land and sea would be well covered by their position.

I would suggest that the districts of Sultan Yéré and Gumurjina should be occupied by detachments spared from Constantinople, in addition to the small number of regular troops already in them. Also that the country to the north of the Province of Gallipoli should be reoccupied by troops from Constantinople, following by land the Russian retreat. Eight battalions, or 3,200 men, should be sufficient to occupy Sultan Yéré and Gumurjina.

The army at Gallipoli has about 200 cavalry. Parties of about five troopers should be attached to each detachment, to obtain and carry information ; and the remainder might be sent nominally to keep order in advance of the infantry, but really to act as outposts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain*,
Additional Military Attaché.

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[a] Say 1,600 men.

No. 30.

Memorandum.—(Communicated by Count Deym, September 3, 1878.)

ON nous mande de Cettigné que la délimitation pour le Monténégro ne pourra être effectuée maintenant tant que notre occupation ne sera pas plus avancée, tant que la situation relativement à Kolaschin, Gusinje, Podgoritza, et Spuz n'aura pas été éclaircie, et notamment tant qu'on ne connaîtra pas le résultat de la première entrevue entre les Commissaires Monténégrins et le Muchir Mehemet Ali Pacha. Tandis que ce dernier est arrivé à Gusinje un soi-disant conflit a eu lieu à Kolaschin entre la population Musulmane et les deux bataillons de la garnison, à la suite duquel les insurgés ont occupé toutes les fortifications et les troupes sont parties se retirant dans la direction de Novi-Bazar.

On s'attend ici, par conséquent, à toutes sortes de comédies et à de la résistance également par rapport à Gusinje, Podgoriza, et Spuz.

No. 31.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 809.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 807, it was decided yesterday at Council of Ministers to accede to the Russian demand that Turkish regular troops should be sent at once to hold positions between the Russian forces in Eastern Roumelia and the insurgents in Mount Rhodope. A plan is being discussed for carrying out this arrangement. Grand Vizier does not expect any serious opposition from the insurgents, Russian Ambassador not having demanded that they should withdraw from the territory they occupy within the limits of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 32.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 810.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 31st, Grand Vizier informs me that he had no further communication [from the ?] Russian Ambassador as to the proposed Treaty between Russia and Turkey, of which he is expecting the draft. Russian Ambassador merely stated to him that as neither in the Treaty of San Stefano nor in that of Berlin there were Articles declaring that peace had been restored and relations of eternal friendship were established between the two countries, an end had not been put to the state of war, and consequently a separate Treaty of Peace was necessary; and that, moreover, there were stipulations in the Treaty of San Stefano which had not been superseded by the Treaty of Berlin, and that required settlement by a new Treaty.

No. 33.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 811.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 29th ultimo, I understand from Grand Vizier that only English and French Governments have been asked to send persons to superintend Turkish [finances ?]. His Highness seems to think that if such persons can make the necessary investigations and reforms the European Commission would be unnecessary. It is intended that they should be permanently employed, whereas the Commission would have only a temporary and specific character. His Highness added that if, after these investigations have been made and arrangements proposed

for satisfying the foreign creditors, the Powers were not satisfied, an European Commission would be appointed, as provided for by the Protocol.

No. 34.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 812.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 2, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul Bilioti, dated to-day:—

"Tchourouksouli Ali Pasha informs me that notwithstanding Russian promises Lazes will all emigrate. He is on his way to [Arta ?] to select, with authority of Porte, lands for emigrants. Evacuation of Batoum pushed on actively. Russians were expected to enter Sekindje yesterday, and Batoum Friday next.

No. 35.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 813.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 2, 1878.*

GREEK Minister has to-day communicated a telegram from his Government to Grand Vizier, asking for an immediate answer to its request made six weeks ago that the Porte should appoint a Commission to settle the boundaries as suggested by the Congress. If the answer be not given in the affirmative by Sunday next Greek Government will at once appeal to the Powers for their mediation.

No. 36.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 3, 1878.*

I HAVE left with Baron Ostensachen a Memorandum urging substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, which will be sent at once to M. de Giers by telegraph.

No. 37.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. D. Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 3, 1878, 6 P.M.*

THE French Government have appointed Baron de Ring, Secretary of Embassy at Vienna, to be their Commissioner for organization of Eastern Roumelia, with promotion to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary. M. de Coutouly will be French Assistant Commissioner.

Signor Vernoni, First Dragoman to the Italian Embassy at Constantinople, is appointed Italian Commissioner.

No. 38.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, September 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 26th ultimo, inclosing copy of a telegraphic despatch received by you from the Grand Vizier, in which his Highness states that it is the intention of the Sublime Porte to institute a Council of State to be charged with reorganizing the finances of the Empire, and with the preparation of proposals for the settlement of the questions relating to

the internal and foreign debt. His Highness requests that Her Majesty's Government will designate an English financier of high standing to take part in this work, and he adds that a similar request has been addressed to the Government of France.

I need not assure your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government will readily lend what assistance they can to any effort which may be made by the Porte for placing the finances of the Empire upon a proper footing, provided the measures taken for the purpose seem well fitted to secure the object in view. The matter is, however, one of considerable gravity, and it will be very desirable to take all possible precautions against confusion or failure. Her Majesty's Government would hesitate to make any recommendation of the kind now invited by Safvet Pasha until they were more precisely informed of the composition of the proposed Commission and the powers which it is intended to confer upon it. They would also trust that its action would not interfere with that of the Commission which it is to be presumed that the Porte will institute in compliance with the recommendation made by the Six Powers, and recorded in the 18th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 39.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 4.*)

(No. 104. Political.)
Trebizond, August 21, 1878.

My Lord,

IN consequence of information furnished to me by Yussuf Pasha, I have had the honour to telegraph, two days ago, as follows to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Dervish Pasha instructed Mutessarif of Batoum to inform populations that Russians will enter on 27th instant, and that those willing to emigrate can do so. Mutessarif telegraphed for sailing-boats to embark numerous families of emigrants arrived from interior with baggage. Governor-General asked for instructions at Constantinople. Inhabitants of Hoppa telegraphed that hearing that Russians will take possession of their town, they will oppose them with arms."

It was made known through public criers at Batoum that those who did not want to emigrate at once were free to do so in the course of three years, after which lapse of time all those remaining in the Lazistan would be Russian subjects.

Immediately after this publication part of the inhabitants of Livanah telegraphed to the Porte that they wished to emigrate to Malatia.

In granting the request, and promising means of transport, the Porte reminded the Laz that three years being allowed for emigration they should not sacrifice their property by departing hurriedly.

A Turkish transport has brought this day from Batoum 1,200 packages of military stores, as well as a great number of pickaxes, spades, &c.

Several families of officers, and of other Mussulmans, not Laz, have arrived on board the same steamer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 40.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 4.*)

(No. 105. Political.)
Trebizond, August 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I SENT last evening the following telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"By order of Porte surrender of Batoum is postponed to 12th September, and Governor of Trebizond proceeds to-morrow to Batoum, to try and calm population, and make, if needed, arrangements for emigration. Departure of ships-of-war and embarkation of military stores from Batoum countermanded."

When, two days ago, the above news reached Batoum, the dismounting of the guns, which had already begun in the forts, was discontinued; the two vessels-of-war

stationed there, which had cast their moorings and were ready to depart, resumed their berths in the harbour, and the material already shipped on board the "Kaisan'eh" was landed.

The Turkish troops have not yet abandoned their advanced positions, but a good number of them are at Batoum, which is closely surrounded by 6,000 or 7,000 armed Laz.

Dervish Pasha seems to be very uneasy, and the Commissioners of the Porte are unable to treat with the Laz, who have no confidence in them.

Under these circumstances Yussuf Pasha, Governor-General of Trebizond, has been telegraphed by the Porte to proceed immediately to Batoum (for which place he starts in a few hours), in the hope that he may be able to induce the Laz, who have faith in him, to give up all idea of resistance, and emigrate, if they are resolved not to submit to Russia.

No emigrants have yet arrived at Batoum, although many are said to be moving towards the seashore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 41.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 4.*)

(No. 106. Political.)
Trebizond, August 23, 1878.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople having instructed me, with reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 99 of the 9th instant, to do all in my power to discourage resistance on the part of the Laz to the Russian occupation, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of my answer on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Sir A. H. Layard.

Trebizond, August 23, 1878.

Sir,

I RECEIVED this morning your Excellency's despatch of the 15th instant relating to the last petition addressed by the Laz to Lord Beaconsfield, and beg to report, for your Excellency's information, the manner in which I have carried out the instructions contained therein.

When the agent of the Laz here, Aly Boy, had handed to me the petition in question, I had reminded him, and begged him to tell his countrymen, that they were informed by your Excellency, through me, so far back as the 23rd April last, that British protection could not be extended to them.

Not knowing whether he communicated this message or not, and in order to avoid all possible misunderstanding, I now made him write in my presence a letter, in which he stated to his countrymen that I have been instructed by your Excellency to do all in my power to discourage resistance on their part to the Russian occupation, as it can have no other result but useless bloodshed.

This letter I inclosed in another, which I have addressed myself to the Armenian Roman Catholic priest at Batoum, who has great influence on the Laz Boys, begging him to hand it in person and to try to induce them to renounce their project.

I also called on Yussuf Pasha informing him of the instructions which I received from your Excellency, and begged him to report them verbally to the Laz Boys, which he promised to do the more willingly that they agree with his own orders, and may assist him in the success of his mission to Batoum.

I trust that the Laz, seeing that they have not the slightest chance of assistance from the British or the Ottoman Governments, will give up the idea of fighting against all hope of success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 42.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 86. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have written to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard (1) inclosing a translation of a letter from the Provisional Government complaining of the irruptions of Bashi-Bazouks into the insurgents' lines, and (2) acknowledging the receipt of his Excellency's telegram announcing the appointment as Commissioner of Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, who is to act in concert with Costaki Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, August 20, 1878.*

I HAVE this moment received a letter from the Provisional Government informing me that the Turkish troops and Bashi-Bazouks are encroaching in several places, which they name, on the territory held by the Christians. I have the honour to inclose a translation of their letter. M. Calocherinos confirms in a despatch just received the story of the murder of the three unarmed Christians, and the Chief of that district, in a letter to M. Calocherinos, declares that his men are obliged to repel attacks of that kind. He also incloses me a letter from the Chiefs near Hierapetra, which draws a lamentable picture of the excesses committed by the troops in that neighbourhood, who are accused not only of ravaging the country, but of violating women and boys, and profaning the churches. He adds that the troops are without proper food and in rags, and commit disorders on purpose to be sent away.

The Consular Agent at Rethymo also confirms the report that some Bashi-Bazouks had advanced into the enemy's country near that district, and that one of them had lost his life. I purpose seeing the Vali as soon as the post is closed, in order to urge his Excellency to call again the attention of the military authorities to the alleged advance of the troops in this neighbourhood, and to the excesses committed by them in Hierapetra, in the east of the island.

M. Calocherinos also reports that many of the Bashi-Bazouks who had plundered the Christians in Rhizo six weeks ago have been imprisoned, and that some of the plunder had been recovered and restored.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, August 24, 1878.*

I HAD the honour to receive last night your Excellency's telegram of the previous day informing me of the appointment of Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha as Commissioner in Crete, to act with Costaki Pasha, and that he was to leave Constantinople immediately.

It will be a subject of satisfaction to the Christians to know that his Excellency Costaki Pasha retains the direction of affairs. The new Commissioner will not arrive a moment too soon, as fears have latterly been entertained lest some of the Christian Chiefs should reopen hostilities. The Provisional Government and the General Assembly are sincerely desirous of avoiding a rupture, and they have the people with them, but certain Chiefs are generally believed to be preparing a movement calculated to disturb the state of truce which has prevailed for the past two months. That the movement is inspired from abroad is more than probable, and it is a fact that a blockade-runner has just landed a store of ammunition near Hierapetra on the south-east coast.

I drew attention in my last despatch to the excesses which the regular troops were alleged to be committing near Hierapetra. The superintendent of the telegraph station at that end of the island informs his chief here that these troops, who are Syrians, continue to rob and maltreat the Christians. Some excuse for their conduct may be found in the circumstance that they are only half fed. The firm hand of the new Commissioner cannot fail to remedy this and other evils complained of in the military administration.

I need hardly say that the concluding sentence of my despatch No. 101 was written under the impression that his Excellency Costaki Pasha's recall had already been decided on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

The Provisional Government of Crete to Consul Sandwith.

(Traduction.)
M. le Consul, *Campos, le $\frac{7}{19}$ Août, 1878.*

NOUS avons l'honneur de vous communiquer que les Ottomans, tant les troupes régulières que les Bashi-Bazouks tâchent d'avancer dans des endroits occupés par les Chrétiens; ainsi, dans la Province de Monofatzi les troupes régulières campées à Charaka ont poussé jusqu'à Fournofarango, à une heure de distance, et se sont emparés des troupeaux appartenant aux Chrétiens; il est à craindre qu'un conflit n'ait lieu à cet endroit-là. Dans la Province de Pediada des Bashi-Bazouks se sont introduits au village Caravado, et y ont massacré trois Chrétiens sans armes, ce qui a obligé le Capitaine du district à les poursuivre, et à venir aux mains avec eux. Dans la Province de Rethymo des Bashi-Bazouks ayant tenté à occuper le village Epano Varsamoneron, garde avancée des Chrétiens, ont été repoussés par le nôtre après un engagement. Dans la Province de Cydonia (Canea) les Ottomans ont avancé la position de Keratidi, ce qui aurait provoqué un combat sans la modération des nôtres. En outre, dans plusieurs autres endroits, et même dans la Province de Jerapetra, qui est occupé par les Ottomans, ces derniers profanent les églises, déshonorent des femmes, et en général commettent des actes tendant à exciter les nôtres, qui s'intéressent naturellement pour les souffrances de ceux de leurs frères qui se sont obligés pour diverses raisons de se soumettre.

Il est bien entendu, M. le Consul, que si les Ottomans se décident de mettre en exécution ce que, selon les apparences, ils ont l'intention de faire, c'est-à-dire de s'avancer dans l'intérieur, ils ne feront que provoquer des scènes regrettables, dont la responsibilité pèsera sur la Sublime Porte, car il y a longtemps que les nôtres n'ont donné aucune cause aux Ottomans, par respect à vos recommandations.

Veuillez, &c.
(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 43.

Acting Consul Summa to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 66. Consulaire.)
My Lord, *Scutari, le 26 Août, 1878.*

J'AI l'honneur de rapporter à votre Seigneurie que dans ces derniers jours l'attitude du Gouverneur de Scutari vis-à-vis le Comité d'action s'est tout-à-fait modifiée, et au lieu de pousser la population à la résistance, il tâche aujourd'hui de réprimer le mouvement.

Je suis convaincu que le Vali doit avoir reçu des ordres rigoureux de Constantinople, et qu'il agit en conséquence; on ne pourrait autrement expliquer sa nouvelle attitude en présence des Musulmans Albanais, dont il avait encouragé la résistance aux cessions territoriales.

Hussein Pacha a fait mander les Chefs du Comité, leur déclarant que l'opposition des habitants pour entraver l'exécution des arrêts du Congrès de Berlin serait tout-à-fait inutile, et en tout cas ils ne devaient nullement espérer d'être aidés par le Gouvernement Impérial, qui les tiendrait responsables des suites de leur résistance.

Les déclarations catégoriques du Vali ont ébranlé l'esprit de résistance des habitants et la majorité du Comité croit une opposition armée inutile, ne pouvant plus compter sur l'appui du Gouvernement.

Cependant il y a aussi un parti d'action à tout prix lequel s'agite et murmure contre les procédés du Gouvernement, demandant qu'on envoie à Prisrend un délégué pour réclamer les renforts que l'on avait décidé d'envoyer ici et de hâter leur départ. A cet effet depuis deux jours est parti pour Prisrend un des plus influents partisans de la résistance.

Je suis fondé à croire que si le Vali de Prisrend a reçu les mêmes instructions que celui d'ici, la mission du délégué de Scutari manquera tout-à-fait son but, et les Musulmans d'ici n'auront à calculer que sur leurs propres ressources.

C'est pourquoi qu'ici on attende avec anxiété la réponse de Prisrend ; dans le cas où le délégué réussisse à faire venir à Scutari quelque milliers de volontaires, l'esprit de résistance aura le dessus, sinon, je crois que l'opposition armée, contre le Monténégro, sera partielle et bornée seulement aux Musulmans de Potgoritza, Goussigné, et Plavn, lesquels, d'après mes informations, puisées, d'ailleurs, d'une source digne de foi, s'opposeront opiniâtrement à l'occupation de leur pays par les Monténégrins, même dans le cas où ils soient abandonnés à leurs seules forces. Ils l'ont déclaré maintes fois ; par conséquent, il faut que le Gouvernement de la Porte prenne à leur égard des précautions pour empêcher une effusion de sang.

En attendant, les Musulmans de Scutari, de Potgoritza, et de Goussigné, se sont formés en bataillons, le commandement desquels a été confié à des Chefs nommés par la population elle-même. Quant aux Chefs des montagnes, ils se trouvent encore dans leurs tribus. A l'exception des Klotti et Gronda, ils ont refusé de s'inscrire pour les enrôlements, déclarant, d'ailleurs, que, comme toujours, ils fourniront le contingent de troupes qu'ils doivent en pareille circonstance.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) F. SUMMA.

No. 44.

General Menabrea to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

Londres, le 31 Août, 1878.

M. le Marquis,

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence qu'en conformité de l'Article VI du Traité de Berlin, le Gouvernement Italien a nommé M. le Chevalier De Gubernatis, Consul d'Italie à Rustchuk, son Délégué *ad hoc*, pour assister, avec le concours des Délégués des autres Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, le Commissaire Impérial Russe chargé de l'administration provisoire de la Bulgarie.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) MENABREA.

No. 45.

Captain Fife to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(Confidential.)

London, September 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, having had the Gallipoli Peninsula under my consideration from a strategical point of view since my arrival there in January last until my recent departure, and having now returned to England, that I would beg permission to make some remarks upon its protection, after the projected withdrawal of the armies and fleets from the vicinity of Constantinople.

I am fully aware, from information which I obtained, that the Russians look upon their not having seized the Gallipoli Peninsula before the entry of the British fleet into the Sea of Marmora as having virtually doomed them to submit to what they were pleased to term "the pretensions of England with regard to the Eastern question." For had they seized the Peninsula and defended the Dardanelles the Turks might have been more overawed than they actually were, feeling themselves isolated from the interference of the fleets of the Western Powers. They might thus have been persuaded to co-operate with their fleet and land forces in the defence of the Straits, which, with torpedoes and shore batteries, would have become most formidable.

The Russians in the Peninsula would have been able to keep open their communications by sea from the port of Gallipoli in the event of a landing of British troops in the Gulf of Saros to sever their communications by land, but they lost the power to thus command a new line of retreat in emergency, when the British fleet entered the Dardanelles and took possession of the Sea of Marmora.

Again, had the fleet been excluded from the Dardanelles, it could no longer have reached Constantinople, penetrated if necessary into the Black Sea to lay open to us the Russian communications as far as the mouths of the Danube in Europe, and the Caucasus in Asia, giving us a base of operations of immense strategical value for the offensive, and at the same time absolutely invulnerable to the enemy.

This being the case, it is probable that the Russians would commence any future operations by seizing the Gallipoli Peninsula, if it were possible for them to do so, before the British fleet could re-enter the Sea of Marmora.

The character of the General in command must always have a certain degree of significance in regard to the possibility of particular operations, and no Russian General in the late war has shown himself more capable of a rapid, bold, and skilful movement than General Skobeleff, who has been appointed to the command of the army of occupation.

Even after the Russian troops have retired to Eastern Roumelia, they might, if the lines of Bulair are left unguarded, seize the Gallipoli Peninsula with cavalry and mounted infantry, after a forced march of from two to three days from the frontier of the new province, the exact time required depending upon the strength and composition of the expedition, and the state of the roads, &c. The Russians would doubtless conceal the expedition and its destination as long as possible; they would also be compelled to mask the Turkish troops in Adrianople, but they could easily provide the necessary force for this from the army of occupation of 50,000 men. Even were the Turkish force in Adrianople very large, it would not be safe to trust to the protection it would afford by menacing the line of retreat of any expedition against Gallipoli; for the want of mobility of the Turkish troops, and the possibility of their Commander conniving at the Russian movement, must be taken into account. Gallipoli should still continue occupied, therefore, by a garrison of its own.

To render the success of any such attempt as the above impossible, the following precautions should be taken:—

1. The fortifications protecting Gallipoli should be held, as at present, by a force of not less than 15,000 Turkish troops, under a General incapable of connivance with the Russians.

2. A British squadron should remain at Gallipoli so long as there are Russian troops south of the Balkans; but if this be impossible, a sufficient fleet should at least be at hand at Besika Bay.

3. If the British fleet is absent from the shores of the Gallipoli Peninsula, at least two Turkish men-of-war should always remain at Gallipoli, and the same number in the Gulf of Saros, ready to assist in the defence of the lines by flanking fire; to threaten the rear of any land attack; to protect the coasts in rear of the lines from any turning movement of the enemy by sea.

The lines are at present exceedingly strong, in good order, and sufficiently supplied with munitions of war for the commencement of operations; the garrison exceeds 15,000 Turkish troops, unless some have been withdrawn since my departure; the armament of the works is sufficient.

Osman Nouri Pasha, the General in command, is, I consider, incapable of conniving with the Russians; he is a very devout Turk; he has no great talent for military affairs, but he would no doubt do his duty.

The Civil Governor of Gallipoli, Reschid Pasha, is a man of considerable talent, and a warm friend of England, and it is very desirable that he should remain at Gallipoli so long as there is any chance of troubles there. He has great influence with Osman Nouri Pasha.

M. Odoni, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Gallipoli, has much ability, is devoted to British interests, and after what has already passed would no doubt understand and be able to report most military movements that might take place in the vicinity. Still I think that if the British fleet does not remain at Gallipoli, and so long as there are Russian troops south of the Balkans, that there should be a Military Attaché of the Embassy with the army at Gallipoli, since a military man is able to understand the meaning of a movement quicker and better, and also to estimate and observe the Turkish garrison and defences more correctly. The temporary unfitness for duty, owing to sickness, of either the Military Attaché or the Vice-Consul, is thus also provided

for. Any important news could be telegraphed direct by them to the fleet as well as the Ambassador in cypher.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain*,
Additional Military Attaché.

No. 46.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, September 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 2 Septembre*, 1878.

LA Province de Kozan vient d'être le théâtre de désordres. Le Chef de ce mouvement est un certain Kozanli Ahmed Pacha, qui depuis quelques années résidait à Constantinople, et jouissait d'une pension. Ayant obtenu dernièrement du Gouvernement Impérial l'autorisation de se rendre à Konieh, Ahmed Pacha s'est arrêté à Kozan, a réuni autour de lui quelques partisans au nombre d'environ dix (?) cents, et à leur tête il a cherché à provoquer des troubles et a voulu s'emparer de l'autorité. Les habitants s'y sont opposés. Il s'en est suivi une révolte. La Sublime Porte a adopté les mesures les plus énergiques et les plus promptes pour étouffer dès le début cette tentative de désordre. Quelques bataillons ont été expédiés d'ici à Kozan. Ces troupes sont placées sous le commandement d'Izzet Pacha, Muchir du 5me Corps d'Armée. Djevded Pacha, Gouverneur-Général de Syrie, qui a été jadis chargé d'une mission analogue à Kozan, a été invité à se rendre sur les lieux. Tout nous fait espérer que ce mouvement de rébellion sera bientôt réprimé.

Je vous télégraphie ces détails pour que vous puissiez, le cas échéant, mettre l'opinion publique en garde contre des exagérations.

No. 47.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 3*, 1878.

REFERRING to my telegram of yesterday, if Greek Government do not receive a favourable answer from Porte before Friday night next, they will address on Saturday an appeal to the Great Powers for their mediation.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 48.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 814.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 3*, 1878.

PERSIAN Commissioner for the settlement of the boundaries between Turkey and Persia is still here. Persian Ambassador has requested me to ascertain whether Her Majesty's Government intend to send Sir A. Kemball back, or some other Commissioner to conclude the work without delay, as he says that his Government attaches much importance to the whole question being settled as soon as possible.

No. 49.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 695.)
Paris, September 5, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of 5 P.M. yesterday, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note which I have this day addressed to M. Waddington, respecting the proposed Commission of Inquiry into Turkish finances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Mr. Adams to M. Waddington.

Paris, September 5, 1878.

M. le Ministre,

WITH reference to the conversation which I had the honour of having with your Excellency on the 30th ultimo, I learn from the Marquis of Salisbury that Her Majesty's Government have, similarly to the French Government, asked to be furnished with details as to the proposed Commission of Inquiry into Turkish finance.

Her Majesty's Government will not fail to communicate with that of France before taking any decision in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 50.

Herr von Radowitz to Baron von den Brincken.—(Communicated to Mr. Lister by Baron von den Brincken, September 5.)

[Not for Blue Book.]

(Translation.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, September 2*, 1878.

FROM various communications made to you since the conclusion of the Berlin Treaty, and since the exchange of the ratifications here on the 3rd ultimo, you have been able to perceive that considerable difficulties have been raised on the part of the Turkish Government against the execution of the stipulations of the Treaty.

The Porte has not up to the present time found itself in a position to fulfil the stipulations of the Treaty in regard to the surrender of the fortresses of Varna and Schumla, nor yet of Batoum. In the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary, as directed by the Congress, the Porte has not afforded the co-operation that was to be expected for quieting the population and facilitating the task assigned to Austria; on the contrary, it has allowed the opposition of the Mahommedan inhabitants to the occupation to be promoted in many ways by the Turkish authorities. The resolutions of the Congress, and Article XXIV of the Treaty, concerning the regulation of the boundaries between Turkey and Greece, have been simply rejected by the Porte's Circular of the 8th August last, which you have seen. Finally, the telegram from the Prince of Montenegro, dated the 24th ultimo, of which a copy is inclosed, gives evidence that neither is the Porte yet disposed to perform its engagements in regard to the cession of territory to Montenegro stipulated by the Treaty of Berlin.

From this demeanour of the Turkish Government fresh commotion has already arisen in many parts of the Balkan Peninsula, the further development of which threatens to call in question again the peaceful work performed by the Treaty of Berlin through the united efforts of the Powers. The Imperial Government is convinced that the other Cabinets which took part in the Treaty of Berlin will agree in the opinion that it is a common duty to prevent such a contingency. They hope that the united representations of the Powers may succeed in inducing the Porte to recognize the necessity of a faithful and complete fulfilment of the Treaty obligations which it has incurred.

For this purpose we should think it expedient that the Representatives of the Treaty Powers accredited at Constantinople should express to the Sultan's Ministers in an identic form, or at least simultaneously, the expectation of their Governments that the Porte will raise no further difficulties against the execution of the arrangements made by the Berlin Treaty with its own concurrence, and that it will issue clear and definite instructions to those of its authorities concerned, in regard to those points in which they are bound in virtue of the Treaty to co-operate in the establishment of the new state of affairs. We are ready to furnish the Imperial Ambassador at Constantinople with instructions to this effect; but must, of course, consider it of importance that such a step should be approved and participated in by the other Powers which are by the Berlin Treaty engaged to a joint course of conduct.

You will be so good as to ascertain the views of the British Cabinet on this subject, and communicate them to me by telegraph.

By Direction of the Imperial Chancellor,
(Signed) RADOWITZ.

No. 51.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 815.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 4, 1878.*

PRIME Minister informs me that he expects Batoum to be surrendered to the Russians [in?] two or three days, and that the Porte has succeeded in stopping any opposition from the Lazes by undertaking to grant them lands within the Turkish dominions should they desire to emigrate. His Highness complains that while Porte is surrendering Batoum, Russians are showing no signs of withdrawal from Erzeroum; he has made representations to the Russian Ambassador, who has promised to write to his Government on the subject.

No. 52.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Trebizonde, September 4, 1878.*

RECEIVED last night your Lordship's telegram of 2nd, and communicated its contents to Tchourouksouli Ali Pasha, who is here. I send to the other Lazes Beys through a letter to Armenian priest at Batoum, in whom they have confidence. Lazes have given up all intention to oppose Russian occupation, and have begun to emigrate; 2,000 have already arrived here. Evacuation of Batoum carried on actively.

No. 53.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 5, 1878.*

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires having enquired whether, in view of the troubles on the Montenegrin frontier, the Commission for defining the frontier should not postpone its meeting beyond the 13th, the Russian Government have replied that those very troubles make any postponement of the meeting dangerous.

Russia declines to agree with Austria that one Commission would suffice to define the boundaries of both Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

No. 54.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 5, 1878.*

FRENCH, Austrian, and Russian Governments have signified their assent to proposal contained in German Note of the 2nd instant, on the subject of collective advice to be addressed by the Great Powers to the Porte.

German Minister for Foreign Affairs says that his Government lay great stress upon early and similar reply from Her Majesty's Government.

No. 55.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 216.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 5, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 31st ultimo, Count Andrassy will be ready to defer progress of Austrian troops towards Novi-Bazar if he is satisfied that the delay will not be turned to account for organizing resistance.

Austrian Consul at Prizren is ordered to proceed to Novi-Bazar and Mitrovitza, and the decision of the Government will depend on his report; for if it is found that positions are being strengthened or that preparations are being made for resistance, the troops will be at once ordered to advance and occupy the country.

No. 56.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 217.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 5, 1878.*

IN speaking of the proposed Convention with the Porte, Count Andrassy alluded to Memorandum he had signed at Berlin, saying that he had done so to prevent Ottoman Plenipotentiaries from withholding signature from the Treaty, which would have been the destruction of Turkey.

It was then, he said, agreed that an immediate arrangement of the details of the occupation should be come to, which the Porte had made impossible, and he declared that the introduction into the last proposal of the Porte of a statement that the occupation was provisional had been made without concert with him, and was altogether inadmissible.

With regard to his withdrawal of his consent to allowing Turkish flag to be hoisted with Austrian flag, he had always declared that if the conditions he proposed were not accepted at once he might be obliged to modify them.

If the Porte refuses his proposed Convention he must do without it; but he would much regret if, instead of occupying Bosnia with the consent of the Sultan, he is obliged at once to annex it, which, as not being laid down in the Treaty, might give pretext to Russia for not withdrawing her troops from Bulgaria and Roumelia.

No. 57.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 55. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, August 10, 1878.*

SINCE my despatch No. 53, Political, of the 8th July, on the subject of military movements, there has been little to report.

The workmen who were sent down to Isaaktcha on the 5th July, were ordered to discontinue work on the 13th July, and on the 15th they returned to Galatz and were paid off.

Rumours were current of a large passage of troops from Ismail to Toultcha, but as far as I could ascertain the only movement was the replacing of 5,000 men of the 36th Division of the 7th Army Corps by an equal number of reserves, the former returning from the Dobrudscha to Russia.

Up to the 8th instant about 3,000 recruits and reserves had arrived at Galatz by the railway from Bender, and were being sent up river by steamers, the communications by rail being interrupted.

On the 6th instant about 500 men of an Engineer corps were marched up from Galatz to Ibraïla, from whence they went on by rail towards Bucharest.

On the 7th instant Mr. Vice-Consul Morphy reported that the Russian military bridge near Ibraïla had been entirely removed; it was floated down river in pieces, and is, I hear, being put together again near Toultcha; bridges are also in course of construction across the Vrilia Branch of the Danube at Ismail, and across parts of the island opposite Toultcha.

A regiment of Roumanian infantry (Dorobanti) arrived at Ibraïla on the 6th

instant, and were disbanded; on the 9th instant about 200 men of the 11th Regiment, and 450 of the 16th Regiment of Dorobanti, arrived at Galatz; the latter came from Calafat, and are under orders to march to Botoshani, in the Jassy district, where they will be disbanded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 58.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 457.)
My Lord, *Athens, August* 21, 1878.

PUBLIC opinion in Greece continues to be excited by the reports received from Epirus and Thessaly of the Greek population in those provinces at the hands of the Mussulman population and of the regular Turkish troops. It is represented that the Greeks are subject to insults, their crops destroyed and property injured. Brigandage is said to be rife in those districts, and consequently the communications are interrupted and commerce seriously interfered with.

As long as the hope is maintained in Greece that the rectification of the frontiers, as recommended by the Treaty of Berlin, will be carried out, it is probable that the population of the Kingdom will abstain from interference beyond their frontier; but should those hopes be frustrated, or indefinitely postponed, action will be taken, and, with or without the action of the Government, a renewal of the interference of the Greeks of the Kingdom beyond the border will take place, and give rise to grave complications.

News has been received of the disembarking of 4,500 Turkish regular troops at Preveza, and of three Turkish iron-clad vessels.

At Domoco and at Ombriaki, near the Greek frontier in Thessaly, the Turks have fortified, strengthened, and supplied with ammunition, the principal strategic points, and tents have been provided for 1,800 men, who are stationed there. These proceedings on the part of the Porte are looked upon as indicating a determination of the Turks to refuse to comply with the wishes expressed by the Congress at Berlin relative to a rectification of the Greek frontier.

Hassan Pasha is reported to have lately visited Domoco, and had an interview with some leading Greek Christians and the Bishop, to whom he expressed the intention of the Porte to grant liberal reforms to the Greeks, but at the same time he stated that the Turkish Government would oppose a formal refusal to the aggrandizement of Greece, as recommended in the XIIIth Protocol of the Berlin Conference.

In view of this state of things, and the uncertainty as regards the future, the Greek Government consider it necessary to maintain an army of 32,000 men. The expense of this large body of men is far beyond the resources of Greece, and it costs the country 52,000*l.* a-month beyond the normal military outlay, which is calculated at a rate to maintain 8,000 or 9,000 men under arms. Already the finances of the country are grievously involved, and the salaries of the Government employés in arrear. If the present state of things continues much longer national bankruptcy must ensue, the consequences of which on the political position can only be productive of internal disorder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 59.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 458.)
My Lord, *Athens, August* 21, 1878.

TWO Greek gentlemen, Turkish subjects, called upon me yesterday with a petition addressed to the Queen, and signed by numerous inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus, their countrymen, complaining of the ill-usage the Greek inhabitants of those provinces were suffering at the hands of their Mussulman fellow-subjects, and of the general anarchy which they represent as prevailing there, and praying for Her

Majesty's interference on their behalf, to bring about the union of those provinces with the Greek Kingdom.

I declined to take charge of the petition, as the persons who brought it were Turkish subjects, and I recommended them to communicate with Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

I promised them, however, to report to your Lordship that the petition had been submitted to me, and the nature of its contents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 60.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 459. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, August* 21, 1878.

M. COUMOUNDOUROS expressed to me this morning the opinion, which appears from the language he has held to be shared by my Turkish colleague, that the resistance the Porte had shown to carrying out the provisions of the Berlin Congress in Bosnia and at other points, is to be attributed in a great measure to the necessity on the part of the Sultan not to incur the unpopularity which would attach to his appearing to acquiesce voluntarily in the extensive loss of territory which the Empire is called upon to make in consequence of the results of the late war with Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 61.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 126. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 19, 1878.

PRINCE WREDE has informed me that the Austrian Government have no objection to his being present at the reception of the Consular body by Prince Milan, on the 22nd instant, when the address will be read, the words of which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 124 of the 19th instant.

When the words in question were sent to me for my assent to them, I remarked that, without your Lordship's instructions, I did not think I would agree to them, as it appeared to me that they entitled the Servian Government to suppose we had recognized their independence, since we had congratulated them on its proclamation; while I acknowledged that the vagueness of the phrase opened a field for our disputing such a conclusion.

Thinking, however, there might be a desire on the part of the Servian Government to precipitate such an official congratulation on our parts, I asked how they intended to frame the invitation to the Consular body, and found, as I had suspected, that we were to be asked to take part in the festivities consequent both on the anniversary of the Prince and on the proclamation of the independence of Servia.

I must acknowledge that I looked upon this somewhat in the light of a political manœuvre, as the Government are well aware that the sanction of two more Skuptschinas is necessary for the alteration in the Constitution respecting the Jews to become law, and that it may be a year, or even two years, before the great Skuptschina is called to give the final approval.

Under these circumstances I deemed it best to ask your Lordship to allow my being present at the reading of the address, so as not to form a single and ungracious exception on that festive occasion, but to inform M. Ristic previously that, as a matter of course, he must be aware that the definite recognition of Servian independence by Her Majesty's Government remains conditional upon the decisions of the Congress being definitely passed into law in Servia.

I must, however, add that the Jewish question appears really to present few diffi-

culties now, and that the Prince and his Government have really entered with great good will in the accomplishment of the task imposed upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 62.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 22, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 125 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to inform you that receiving no special instructions from your Lordship, I yesterday informed M. Ristic that I should join my colleagues in their congratulatory address to the Prince on the occasion of the declaration of independence, it being well understood that my doing this was in no way to prejudge the future action of Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency said that this was a matter in which the Servian Government fully entered, and that the wording of the Proclamation would show how well the Servian Government were aware of the fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 63.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the Proclamation of Independence which was issued this morning.

The principal points in it, as your Lordship will perceive, are the declaration of the Prince's firm intention to carry out the conditions laid down by the Congress of Berlin; the intention of His Highness to maintain his newly acquired independence, and the announcement that the state of siege is raised, and a new era of peace has begun.

A solemn Te Deum was sung at the Cathedral at which the whole Court was present. At the reception of the Diplomatic and Consular Body which followed, the Doyen, M. Doscos, the Greek Consul-General, read an Address of which I inclose a copy in original French, and in translation.

The Prince replied in suitable terms, and requested us particularly to thank our respective Governments for their valuable aid in bringing about the state of things which it was possible to celebrate this day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

P.S.—I have the honour to inclose a copy of the Prince's answer to the Consular Address which has just been sent to me.

H. E. H. J.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Proclamation of His Highness Prince Milan Obrénovitsch IV to his People.

Serbes!

JE vous ai appelés aux armes pour la seconde fois le 1er Décembre dernier; cette fois je vous ai appelés non-seulement au nom de l'affranchisement de nos frères opprimés, mais au nom de l'indépendance de notre chère patrie la Serbie.

Bien que vous ne fussiez pas encore reposés des fatigues de la première lutte inégale, soutenue de concert avec nos frères les Monténégrins, contre le grand Empire

Ottoman; bien que vous ne fussiez pas encore remis des grands sacrifices que vous aviez eus à supporter,—vous n'en avez pas moins répondu à l'appel de votre Souverain en dignes descendants de vos glorieux aïeux.

Aux prises avec un ennemi pourvu d'armes supérieures aux vôtres et souvent plus nombreux, bravant un hiver des plus rigoureux, vous vous êtes rendus maîtres de places fortes, de défilés impraticables, occupés par l'ennemi. Surmontant les obstacles que la nature et les hommes vous opposaient, vous avez marché de victoire en victoire. Dans le court espace de six semaines vous avez pénétré avec la rapidité de l'éclair jusqu'à Kossovo, où, après 500 ans, l'église de Gratchanitza, en deuil, a entendu les chants de victoire Serbes. Plusieurs milliers de soldats ennemis sont tombés entre vos mains ainsi que de nombreux trophées: un grand nombre de drapeaux ennemis, près de 300 canons, plusieurs milliers de fusils de système moderne et une quantité énorme de munitions de tout genre.

Dans votre brillant essor il n'était plus besoin que d'un pas en avant pour faire flotter triomphalement les étendards Serbes à Prichtina, à Scoplié, à Prizène, ces vieilles capitales des Némaniteh, mais l'armistice du 19 Janvier est venu vous arrêter dans votre marche.

Serbes! Vos triomphes ont enrichi l'histoire Serbe de pages brillantes. Les noms de St. Nicolas, Béla Palanka, Pirot, Nisch, Grédeljitza, Vrania, rappellent chacun une victoire et resplendiront éternellement comme des étoiles, jetant leur éclat sur vos vertus jusque dans un avenir éloigné, et montrant au monde ce que peut accomplir un petit peuple animé de patriotisme et guidé par l'idée de la liberté.

Gloire à vous devant Dieu et devant les hommes, mes braves compagnons d'armes!

Grâce à notre abnégation nous avons eu le bonheur de voir affranchis un nombre considérable de nos frères opprimés, de les voir libres et, la première fois depuis Kossovo, de les serrer dans nos bras.

Si le 1er Décembre de l'année dernière j'ai proclamé la rupture de rapports dans lesquels la Serbie ne pouvait rester sans humiliation, si j'ai brisé alors les liens de vassalité de la Serbie,—vous avez, braves soldats Serbes, prouvé sur le champ de bataille que la Serbie est digne d'être admise au rang des Etats indépendants, qu'elle a pu conquérir son indépendance par les armes, et qu'au besoin elle saurait la défendre les armes à la main.

Le Traité Préliminaire de Paix conclu le 19 Février sous les murs de Constantinople à San Stéfano n'a pas perdu de vue la Serbie. Le magnanime Empereur qui a pris sous sa puissante protection la liberté des Chrétiens d'Orient, a obligé la Porte Ottomane à renoncer à sa suzeraineté sur la Serbie.

Le 1er Juin suivant s'est réuni à Berlin un Congrès des Grandes Puissances Européennes qui a définitivement réglé les questions soulevées par le Traité de San Stéfano. Le Congrès a aussi examiné de nouveau la cause Serbe que mon Plénipotentaire, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, a défendue avec une sagesse et un patriotisme qui m'imposent le devoir de lui donner publiquement en cette occasion le témoignage de ma reconnaissance. Le Traité signé le 1er Juillet à Berlin par les Plénipotentiaires des Grandes Puissances a rendu la paix à l'Orient. Si ce Traité n'a pas réalisé tous les vœux des Serbes, cependant, eu égard aux circonstances dans lesquelles ce grand arrangement international a eu lieu, la Serbie doit son tribut de reconnaissance à la haute bienveillance des Grandes Puissances.

L'Europe a reconnu à la Serbie son indépendance en la rattachant à une condition que j'ai acceptée, décidé à la remplir consciencieusement.

L'Europe a consenti à ce que la plus grande partie des populations de la Vieille Serbie que nous avions affranchies reste réunie avec nous, de sorte que la Serbie se trouve aujourd'hui augmentée de plus du quart de son ancien territoire.

C'est donc la paix, l'indépendance du pays et l'affranchissement, d'un grand nombre de nos malheureux frères que je puis annoncer aujourd'hui à la Serbie comme autant de précieuses acquisitions.

Jouissant des bienfaits de la paix, admis au nombre des Etats indépendants, renforcés du concours de nos nouveaux concitoyens, protégés par de nouvelles et fortes frontières, nous possédons une base solide pour notre développement.

Ces résultats nous les avons achetés au prix de lourds sacrifices. Il n'est pas un d'entre nous qui n'ait été sensiblement éprouvé soit par la perte de ceux qui lui étaient chers, soit dans sa fortune, soit dans sa santé; mais si chacun de nous individuellement est plus pauvre qu'avant la guerre, tous ensemble nous sommes et plus forts et plus riches. Tous ensemble nous devons être satisfaits et fiers. Ceux d'entre nous qui ont survécu à la crise et aux dangers que nous avons traversés peuvent être pénétrés du

sentiment qu'ils n'ont pas vécu inutilement, et les braves auxquels il est échu de rester au champ de l'honneur et de la liberté en couvrant de gloire nos drapeaux, vivront éternellement dans la mémoire de la postérité reconnaissante et seront glorifiés dans l'histoire de la régénération de l'Orient.

Nous avons déjà accompli envers eux un devoir patriotique en votant à la dernière Scoupchtina la loi qui assure une existence convenable à leurs veuves et à leurs orphelins et met à l'abri du besoin ceux de nos blessés qui sont devenus impropres au travail.

Serbes! Dès aujourd'hui l'état de guerre qui régnait en Serbie est levé et avec lui disparaissent certaines dispositions exceptionnelles que cet état avait nécessitées, tandis que quelques autres sont maintenues comme indispensables pour la transition à l'état normal.

En retournant aujourd'hui aux travaux de la paix, n'oublions pas que les événements ont créé à la Serbie une situation nouvelle. En entrant dans le nombre des Etats indépendants, la Serbie a assumé une beaucoup plus grande responsabilité tant pour ses rapports extérieurs que pour ses travaux intérieurs. La Serbie indépendante doit être unie, sérieuse; elle doit marcher d'un pas mesuré dans ses entreprises, d'un côté pour utiliser ses précieuses acquisitions et de l'autre pour se concilier plus que jamais la sympathie des Etats de l'Europe qui nous ont accueillis dans leur sein. De sages relations à l'extérieur, de solides rapports à l'intérieur, telle est l'unique voie qui puisse conduire à la prospérité la Serbie indépendante.

Que Dieu nous prenne sous sa puissante protection!

Belgrade, le 10 *Août*, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Address presented to Prince Milan by the Consular Body.

(Translation.)

Sir,

THE Foreign Representatives accredited to your Highness have the honour to offer you their congratulations on the occasion of the double feast which your people celebrate this day both in honour of your anniversary and of the independence of Servia.

In framing wishes for the happiness of your Highness and of the Principality, the foreign Representatives trust that the new era which is entered upon by Servia will be marked by a continuous progress, both in its internal prosperity and in its material welfare, thanks to the blessings of peace and to the enlightened efforts of your Government.

Inclosure 3 in No. 63.

Prince Milan's Reply to the Address of the Consular Body.

Messieurs,

JE suis heureux de recevoir vos félicitations à l'occasion de la double fête que célèbre aujourd'hui mon pays. Profondément touché des vœux que vous formez pour mon bonheur et celui de la Principauté, je vous en exprime ma vive reconnaissance.

Etant convaincu que l'ère nouvelle qui s'ouvre pour la Serbie ne saurait avoir de prix réel que si elle est marquée par un progrès continu dans sa prospérité, j'aime à croire que les Hautes Puissances daigneront nous continuer dans cette œuvre civilisatrice, cette gracieuse bienveillance dont elles ont de tout temps fait preuve à l'égard de la Serbie, et dont elles viennent de nous donner une preuve si éclatante en reconnaissant au Congrès de Berlin l'indépendance et l'agrandissement de la Serbie.

Nous leur avons voué notre profonde reconnaissance, et je puis vous assurer que nous ne cesserons pas de nous efforcer de mériter à l'avenir leur haute confiance.

En exprimant les sentiments que je partage avec mon peuple, je vous prie, Messieurs, de vouloir bien vous en faire les interprètes auprès des Hautes Cours que vous représentez si dignement.

No. 64.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1055.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 23, 1878.

THE Rev. M. Kalopothakes, a Protestant Greek clergyman, called upon me yesterday, accompanied by M. Matheosian, the Vekil of the Protestant community in Turkey, to submit to me the complaints of the Protestants of Volo, who have lately been exposed to persecution and ill-treatment on the part of the Greeks of that place. Mr. Blunt had brought this matter to my notice in his despatch of the 29th July, of which I transmitted a copy to your Lordship in my No. 996 of the 9th August, 1878. M. Kalopothakes informed me that about three years ago a Protestant Mission had been established at Volo, and that its labours in evangelizing the people had been so far successful that a small community of Protestants had been established in the town. Some four weeks ago a mob composed of Greeks attacked them in their place of worship without any provocation, and maltreated some of them. Although they are protected by the Turkish authorities, they are still exposed to the persecution of their Christian brethren. He requested me to obtain for them, from the Porte, their official recognition as a separate religious community, with the same religious rights as the rest of the inhabitants of Volo. I promised to help him in the matter.

M. Kalopothakes and M. Matheosian then requested me to submit to your Lordship the case of the Protestant inhabitants of the Turkish territory in Thessaly and Epirus, which was to be surrendered to Greece under the Treaty of Berlin. They wished to know whether these Protestants were to be subjected to the same religious persecution to which Protestants are now exposed in Greece, or whether they will be free to exercise their religion as they have hitherto done under the more tolerant rule of the Sultan. They expressed their hope that your Lordship would endeavour to obtain for them religious freedom, as you have done for the inhabitants of Servia, Roumania, and Bulgaria. I told them that I would write on the subject to your Lordship, and M. Matheosian will probably present a Memorial to me with respect to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 64 A.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1056. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from the French Acting-Consul at Adrianople, which the French Chargé d'Affaires has been good enough to communicate to me. It corroborates the accounts that I have received from Mr. Calvert of the ill-treatment and cruelties to which the Mussulman population is exposed, and of the indifference of the Russian authorities, or their unwillingness to take any effective measures to put an end to a state of things, the object of which is to drive the Mahommedans out of Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 64 A.

M. Rouzeville to Count de Montholon.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Andrinople, le* 19 *Août*, 1878.

LES nouvelles que, depuis quelques jours, nous recevons de l'intérieur sont des plus graves.

Les conscrits que les Russes prennent dans les villages Chrétiens des districts limitrophes de la Roumanie Orientale font des incursions dans les villages Turcs de notre province, et leur imposent des rançons comme s'il s'agissait d'une armée conquérante vis-à-vis d'un pays ennemi.

Le meurtre, le viol, et le pillage sont à l'ordre du jour. Tous ces méfaits sont commis par ces jeunes soldats, sans aucune crainte d'être punis, car les autorites Russes ne parviennent jamais à les arrêter.

Des paysans Musulmans des environs de Kirk-kilissa sont venus à Andrinople le 17 de ce mois, afin de demander aide et protection. Ces malheureux affirment que dans le courant de la semaine passée les villages Turcs d'Eréeler, Kesselik, et Malkotz ont été mis à sac, et que leurs habitants, afin d'échapper à la mort et au déshonneur, se sont enfuis dans les bois des montagnes voisines, abandonnant ainsi leur bétail dans la campagne qui a été enlevé par des paysans Bulgares. Ils ajoutent que les villages de Kaiblar, Toptzoular, et Erméni-Mahalessi se trouvent cernés par des conscrits, qui, après leur avoir pris troupeaux et bétail, leur demandent des rançons variant de 300 à 500 livres Turques. Au dire de ces paysans, à Petcho-Mahalessi, village Bulgare, situé à quatre heures au nord de Kirk-kilissa, dans lequel il y a une vingtaine de maisons Musulmanes, les paysans Chrétiens auraient pillé ces habitations, après avoir tué plusieurs Turcs et violé des femmes.

Le Général Sipensky a reçu toutes ces plaintes, et a fait promettre aux paysans Musulmans une escorte de cavaliers chargés de les protéger. Ces cavaliers sont cependant attendus depuis trois jours, au grand désespoir des plaignants, qui craignent pour l'existence des leurs.

Les mêmes désordres se seraient reproduits dans les districts de Visa et de Midia, que les troupes Russes ont évacué tout dernièrement. Ce serait donc sur un mot d'ordre parfaitement exécuté par les habitants Chrétiens de ces contrées, restés maîtres du pays, se livrent à toutes sortes d'horreurs contre une population désarmée.

A Sary-Zalachman, village Turc, distant quatre heures d'Andrinople, des Bulgares, au nombre de soixante, ont également commis des atrocités. Deux des Chefs du village ont été mortellement blessés, leurs femmes et leurs filles ont été violées, et toutes les maisons ont été pillées.

Aucun Musulman n'ose plus s'aventurer dans la campagne, même dans les environs d'Andrinople, où des cas isolés d'assassinat et de rapine ont journellement lieu. A la suite de ces nouvelles, beaucoup de réfugiés qui avaient obtenu la permission de rentrer chez eux, ont dû être arrêtés à la gare du chemin de fer, où ils se trouvent campés depuis huit jours, au nombre de 2,000, privés de nourriture et exposés à être atteints par les maladies.

Des plaintes sont adressés aux autorités Russes par ces réfugiés, mais ils n'obtiennent, jusqu'à présent, ni l'autorisation de continuer leur voyage, ni celle de retourner à Andrinople, où ils pourraient trouver encore quelques ressources d'existence.

Les Russes donnent à ces réfugiés du pain, mais en quantité insuffisante. Une famille, composée de quatre personnes, ne reçoit qu'un demie-oke de pain par jour. En présence de tous ces faits regrettables, on se demande ici quelle sera la situation dans le pays quand les Russes l'auront quitté, et que les Turcs seuls seront chargés de distribuer la justice.

Il y aurait lieu de craindre que les autorités Turques ne se trouvent alors dans l'impossibilité de prévenir tous les actes de représailles auxquelles les Musulmans exaspérés ne manqueront pas de se livrer.

Je viens d'apprendre que trois escadrons de Dragons arrivés cette nuit des environs de Philippopolis ont été expédiés ce matin à Kirk-kilissa, Visa, et Midia.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) F. ROUZEVALLE.

No. 64 B.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1058.) [B.B.]

Therapia, August 25, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1055 of the 28th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter addressed to me by the Vekil of the Protestant community in Turkey, asking me to obtain for the Protestant inhabitants of the Turkish territory which may be ceded to Greece the same religious liberty that they now enjoy under the rule of the Sultan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 64 B.

M. Matheosian to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, August 24, 1878.*

YOUR Excellency is aware that religious and educational liberty is recognized and allowed by the Turkish Government.

Just before the sitting of the Berlin Conference for the arrangement of the affairs of Turkey, we requested your Excellency's assistance in bringing before Her Britannic Majesty's Government the matter of religious liberty, and we gratefully acknowledge it to have accomplished all that was possible. We now hear that certain provinces are about to be ceded to Greece, and we doubt not that your Excellency is aware that the principle of religious and educational liberty is not fully recognized by the Government at Athens. To explain what we mean, we may mention that the Greek Government permits no school to be opened within its jurisdiction for the benefit of the general population, unless the catechism of the Greek church be taught to the pupils by a Greek priest; and unless a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, or of the Virgin Mary, be exhibited in the school. Several schools that were very highly flourishing, and patronised by the best Greek families of Athens and other places, have been closed by the Government because the directors could not comply with the above-mentioned law. Furthermore, the Government declines to recognize any Greek Evangelical organization.

It is of the highest importance to the cause of Evangelical religion already commenced in those provinces to have the principle of complete religious and educational liberty fully recognized in any new arrangement that may be made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HAYET MATHEOSIAN,

Vekil of the Protestant Community.

No. 65.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1059.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 26, 1878.*

I RECEIVED yesterday a visit from Constant Pasha, the late Christian Mushteshar, or sub-Governor, of Bosnia. He is of opinion that the capture of Bosna-Serai will put an end to any further armed resistance on the part of the Bosniac population, Mahommedan and Othodox Christian, to the Austrian occupation; but that armed bands will probably for some time to come cause the Austrians considerable trouble and inconvenience, in consequence of the difficult nature of the country. Although at present the Servians and Montenegrins may not give any direct encouragement, or assistance to the national party, they are likely to do so when it may suit Russian or Panslavist Agents to get up an insurrection in the Province against the Austrian rule. This may perhaps be the case before very long, and the Austrians will then, in their turn, find that it is not so easy to put down troubles and disorder in Bosnia when they are fomented by neighbouring States.

Constant Pasha declared to me in the most explicit terms that the Porte had not incited the Bosniac population to offer assistance to the entry of the Austrian armies. The first instructions sent to the authorities were to protest against the passage of the frontiers by the Austrians troops, but not to oppose it by any display of force. They, and the troops under their command were to remain where they were. Subsequently they were ordered from Constantinople to use every effort to prevent a collision between the invading army and the population, and to prevail upon the Bosnians to receive the Austrians as friends; the proof that they carried out their orders in good faith, and to the best of their ability, is furnished by the fact that several Turkish functionaries of rank who endeavoured to put them into execution were murdered. He himself narrowly escaped with his life. He was compelled to leave Bosna-Serai, was captured and brought back by Hadgi Loja's men, and would have been put to death, had not some of the Mussulman and Christian adherents of that Chief interceded for him.

Constant Pasha denies the truth of the statement of the Austro-Hungarian Government, that the Austrian occupation has been resisted by only a few desperate

men, with the object of pillage, and that the rest of the population cordially welcomes a transfer to Austrian rule. There is a Roman Catholic party in the province that is favourable to annexation to Austria, but it is in a very considerable minority. The Mussulman Bosniacs, and those of the Greek faith, are strongly against it; the former because they believe that they will be deprived of their ancient territorial rights; the latter because they fear that the Roman Catholic clergy will obtain the upper hand, and will interfere with their religious faith. The dread of an Austrian occupation was greatly increased by the reports which reached the Mussulman Bosniacs, of the cruel treatment experienced by the Mahommedans of Bulgaria and Roumelia, from the Russians and Bulgarians. They anticipated the same fate from an Austian invasion.

The greater part of the troops in Bosnia consisted of regiments formed from the inhabitants of the province, which were privileged not to leave it. The Porte could not make use of them against their fellow-countrymen. They refused to obey the authorities, and went over in a body to the insurgents. Even if some of them had remained faithful to the Turkish Government they could not have been employed to fire upon the insurgents without bringing about a civil war, which would have added to the misfortunes and disasters of the province. Moreover, it could not be expected that the Porte should use force to compel its own subjects to submit to a foreign rule which was odious to them, and to an annexation which has been imposed upon the Sultan in flagrant violation of his sovereign rights.

Constant Pasha is of opinion that the Porte would have had no difficulty in restoring and maintaining order, and in gradually carrying out reforms in Bosnia, had it not been for the encouragement given by Austria for the last three or four years to revolutionary agents, with a view to bringing about disturbances and insurrection in the province. The Austrian frontier authorities, and especially General Rodich, openly assisted and protected the insurgents, allowed them to supply themselves with arms, and gave them protection when they passed into Austrian territory. There could be no doubt that their object was to cause a state of things in Bosnia and Herzegovina which would call for intervention on the part of Austria and enable the Slav party to carry out their design of annexing those provinces. Constant Pasha believes that the great majority of the Bosnian population, Mussulmans and Christians, have no desire to be transferred to Austrian rule, and that they will submit to it with impatience. What they require is a certain amount of autonomy which will ensure them a good and just administration, the province itself remaining an integral part of the Turkish Empire. He thinks that the population of Bosnia will be kept in a continual state of agitation by Slav agents; that Servia and Montenegro will not renounce their hopes of dividing between them territories to which they pretend to have a legitimate claim, and that when it suits Russia to carry out her policy of destroying the Ottoman Empire she will have no difficulty in making use of the revolutionary element in this province to embarrass Austria and to paralyze her action.

The impression that I derived from my conversation with Constant Pasha, who, as your Lordship is aware, is a very intelligent man, and well acquainted with the Slav provinces of Turkey in Europe, fully confirms me in my opinion that, however advantageous an occupation, or annexation, of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria might be to the interests of Europe and to those of Turkey herself, the manner in which it has been effected threatens to have a contrary result to that which, at least, some of the Powers represented at the Congress of Berlin intended.

The long-continued intrigues of Austria to reduce those provinces to a state of disorder and anarchy, which would furnish her with a pretext for acquiring them with the consent and approval of Europe, on the ground that it was necessary to the tranquillity of her own border territories and to the maintenance of the general peace, can scarcely be justified upon moral or legal grounds. The way in which she has dealt with Turkey cannot contribute to the extension of her own interests and influence in the East.

Your Lordship is well acquainted with the attempts made last spring by Count Andrassy to induce the Porte to surrender to Austria its two frontier provinces. Having failed in persuading the Turks to part with so large a portion of their European territories without any equivalent whatever, he has succeeded in obtaining the sanction of Europe to their acquisition by force. The arbitrary and violent nature of this proceeding may lead eventually to serious consequences. I believe that if Count Andrassy had accepted the proposals of the Porte for a joint occupation of Bosnia, the Austrian troops might have entered the province without opposition. Order might then have been speedily restored; the administration would gradually have passed,

more or less, under the control of Austrian functionaries. The result upon the welfare of the population and the prosperity of the province would soon have reconciled the Bosnians to an Austrian occupation.

After Austria had thus secured good government to the people, and had proved to them the advantage of a just and benignant rule, she might either have withdrawn her armies, having established her influence and *prestige*, not only amongst the Bosnians and Herzegovinians, but amongst the neighbouring Slav population, who would have contrasted her administration with that of Bulgaria and other States endowed with Russian institutions; or she might have remained in the two provinces with the approval of Europe and of their inhabitants, whose sympathies she has now alienated by her high-handed conduct, and who will be ready to join those who may hereafter seek to cause her trouble within her own dominions. The Bosniac Slavs will scarcely forget the blood which has been shed; and the time may come when Russia will be able to avail herself of their desire for revenge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 65*.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1060.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1878.*

I OBSERVE that a question was asked in the House of Commons as to a telegram from Reuter's agent at Constantinople, which had appeared in the English and European press, to the effect that difficulties had arisen between England and Turkey as to the introduction of reforms into Asia Minor; that I had abandoned some of my demands which had been objected to by the Porte; that the latter had declared that the Treaty respecting Cyprus did not imply the renunciation by Turkey of her independence; and that some proposal had been made by me to the Turkish Government for the installation of British residents in the Asiatic territory of the Sultan. I need scarcely say that there is not a word of truth in the whole of this statement, which is about as accurate as those usually emanating from the same source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 66.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1064.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of despatches and their inclosures from Mr. Blunt, giving an account of the state of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 66.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, August 12, 1878.*

MR. LONGWORTH having been requested by me to avail himself of his visit to Armyro to make inquiries and report to me upon the nature and extent of the excesses which were committed in that district during and after the late insurrection, has furnished me with a Report on the subject, which I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Excellency.

Although there has, unhappily, been some wilful destruction of innocent lives during the insurrection in this district, the number of victims does not exceed nine, that is to say, seven Christians and two Mahommedans, which is very far below the

exaggerated and sensational accounts furnished by the foreign press. It is also worthy of remark that no murders or violent crimes have been perpetrated in the said district—which was one of the principal centres of the insurrection—since the 6th May, the date of the cessation of the movement.

According to Mr. Longworth's account there has been considerable pillage and destruction of property in the district of Armyro by Bashi-Bazouks and insurgents, from which both Christians and Mahommedans have equally suffered. Of the 3,850 sheep and goats which were carried off by both sides from this particular district, 3,500 belonged to the Turkish village of Kitik (probably Ghedik), and were seized by the Bashi-Bazouks; 150 belonging to Armyro were carried off by the insurgents, and the remaining 200 by the Bashi-Bazouks from the Greek village of Platano.

Of the twelve villages which were fired during the progress of the insurrection, ten were occupied by Mahommedans and two by Christians; 99 out of 164 houses included in the ten Mahommedan villages were burned by the insurgents.

Of the two Christian villages that were destroyed, Platano was the largest in the district, and took the most active part in the movement. It was first sacked by the Bashi-Bazouks, and afterwards burned, principally by Turks of Armyro. Calivia, the other Christian village, which is quite close to the border, was burned by its inhabitants just before they took refuge in Greece.

Four churches, those in Platano, were burned by the Turks; and eight mosques, or places of worship, as described by Mr. Longworth, were similarly destroyed by the insurgents.

Mr. Longworth also reports that all the Turkish block-houses along the frontier have been destroyed by the insurgents, and gives the names of eighteen so destroyed in the district of Armyro alone.

These block-houses were constructed by the Turkish Government at considerable expense, for the accommodation of the "Hodoodiych," or frontier military guard, charged with the protection of the country against brigand inroads.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to submit to your Excellency, inclosed herein, a Return of the town and village male population of the district of Armyro, which I prepared during my visit there in June last.

It shows the distribution and relative numbers of the Mahommedan and Christian populations, and the number of "tchiftliks," or estates, owned by both elements. Although the names of the villages and the number of their houses, as given in this Return, do not accord with some of those enumerated in Mr. Longworth's list of burnt villages, I have been assured from the sources whence I compiled it that the data supplied is on the whole to be relied upon.

I am preparing similar Returns from the other districts which I then visited.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 66.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Armyro, July 31, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE gathered the following particulars with respect to the nature and extent of the excesses committed in the district of Armyro from the commencement of the insurrection to the present day:—

NUMBER of Murders committed.

No.	Names of Victims.	Ages.	Date of Murder.	Where Murdered.	Remarks.
1	Dr. Giorgi	46	February 16, 1878	Platano ..	Christians shot by the Ghega irregular troops after an action in the neighbourhood of Platano.
2	Dimiti Misacha ..	50	Do.	Do. ..	
3	Stathi Vissuri ..	7	Do.	Do. ..	
4	Giorgi Tcheta ..	6	Do.	Do. ..	
5	Askania (woman) ..	60	Do.	Do. ..	
6	Yanni Muvriki ..	45	February 20, 1878	Kokotous ..	
7	Nuko Perevolotti ..	56	April 30, 1878 ..	Corphali ..	Christian } Killed by Albanian deserters from the Turkish frontier guard.
8	Ahmet Tahir ..	30	May 4, 1878 ..	Bashid ..	Mahommedan }
9	Mehmet Ali ..	35	Do.	Do. ..	Mahommedan }

NUMBER of Villages Burned.

No.	Name of Village.	Nationality.	Previous Number of Houses.	Number of Houses Burned.	Remaining Number of Houses.	Remarks.
1	Caradaïli ..	Mahommedan	15	10	5	The houses of these ten Mahommedan villages were burnt by "Sarakatchans," a nomadic tribe of Greek shepherds that inhabit the frontier mountains.
2	Dougha ..	Do.	40	20	20	
3	Kitik ..	Do.	25	15	10	
4	Bashid ..	Do.	10	6	4	
5	Turkomooshli ..	Do.	18	10	8	
6	Koililer ..	Do.	15	10	5	
7	Koilimendi ..	Do.	10	7	3	
8	Yelishler ..	Do.	11	7	4	
9	Yaighili ..	Do.	6	4	2	
10	Baklali ..	Do.	14	10	4	
11	Platano ..	Christian	220	220	..	Burned principally by Turks of Armyro.
12	Calivia ..	Do.	10	10	..	Burned by the Caliviots themselves.

The only edifice burned deserving the name of a mosque is that of Baklali. Those burnt in the other villages—Caradaili, Dougha, Kitik, Bashid, Turkomooshli, Koililer, and Koilimendi—were mere places of worship, without minarets, and of a very simple structure.

The churches destroyed are those of Platano; they were four in number, two of which have been completely burned.

All the Turkish guard-houses along the frontier have been destroyed by the insurgents. Those of this district bear the following names:—

1, Tchiklimbik; 2, Kephalos; 3, Armirethea; 4, Stino; 5, Surbi; 6, Komeno; 7, Dermona; 8, Glegoraki; 9, Faidhi; 10, Megali-rahi; 11, Lefka; 12, Shamandora; 13, Idin; 14, Kofteri; 15, Dramala; 16, Thasmo; 17, Mavrika; and 18, Tchafali.

The principal acts of pillage and robbery may be enumerated thus:—

1. The sacking of the village of Platano by the Ghega irregular troops. Furniture, utensils, doors, planks, window bars, &c., having been brought and sold at Armyro.

2. The seizure of 3,500 sheep and goats from the Turkish village Kitik by the Ghega irregular troops.

3. The seizure of 200 sheep from the village of Platano by the Ghega irregular troops.

4. The seizure of 150 sheep from the neighbourhood of Armyro by the Greek shepherds, "Sarakatchans."

I should in justice observe that the houses of Platano were of a much superior class to those of the other villages. They were stone built, with two or three flights of rooms.

With regard to the destruction of Platano, I have gathered the following particulars:—

During the beginning of January 200 Ghega irregulars were cantoned in the village; but as they became mischievous before the end of the month, a company of regular troops were sent there to keep them in order. On the 27th January the insurgents occupied the heights above the village; and on the 16th February they descended into the environs of Platano, whence they were driven back after a severe fight by the Turkish troops. The Ghegas, after the action, re-entered Platano, and having killed the five persons in cold blood, pillaged the village and burned one of its shops, retired with their booty to Armyro. The next day the insurgents entered Platano, and on the 22nd February Mubliss Pasha attacked them with 3,000 troops. They retreated, and the Mussulmans of Armyro, who accompanied the Turkish force entering the village, set fire to about 100 of its houses. The rest were burned subsequently by two's and three's at a time.

That the Turks of Armyro had a hand in the destruction of Platano is a well-known fact, for several of their names figure prominently in the matter. A certain Sabih Agha, for instance, even now boasts, with some considerable pride, that he alone burned no less than thirty-four of its houses.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 66.

RETURN of the Town and Village Population of District of Armyro, in Thessaly.

Town and Villages.	Houses.			Male Population.			Remarks.
	Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christians.	Total.	
TOWN OF ARMYRO ..	310	170	480	519	467	986	
Turkish Villages.							
1. Baklali	13	..	13	39	..	39	Most of these Turkish villages are situated in the plain of Armyro, and more than half the number of their houses was destroyed by the insurgents.
2. Bagtcheli	6	..	6	12	..	12	
3. Bashayid	9	..	9	24	..	24	
4. Degeutcha	45	..	45	119	..	119	
5. Ghedik	29	..	29	82	..	82	
6. Ghulemenli	8	..	8	17	..	17	
7. Kioiteler	15	..	15	39	..	39	
8. Carahali	22	..	22	45	..	45	
9. Tirkemeshli ..	23	..	23	49	..	49	
Totals	170	..	170	426	..	426	
Christian Villages.							
1. Calivia*	..	49	49	..	115	115	Close to the border. Its houses were burnt by the inhabitants.
2. Condoya	..	74	74	..	216	216	Close to the border.
3. Copiasli	..	58	58	..	130	130	These villages are close to the Greek border, and their inhabitants took refuge in Greece.
4. Gonia	..	52	52	..	156	156	
5. Dessaeo	..	24	24	..	60	60	
6. Evdonia	..	83	83	..	199	199	
7. Glanas	..	82	82	..	185	185	
8. Pataeno	..	261	261	..	622	622	Houses burnt principally by Turks of Armyro. Their inhabitants took refuge in Greece.
Totals	..	564	684	..	1,681	1,681	
Turkish Estates.							*Names of Proprietors:—*
1. Ak-Kelessi	..	36	36	..	91	91	Arif Bey, of Salonica.
2. Kara-Bash	..	6	6	..	17	17	Field-Marshal Mehmed Ali Pasha.
3. Kara-Mahli	..	17	17	..	37	37	Rashid Effendi.
4. Kassimli	..	..	..	..	..	..	Mehmed Effendi.†
5. Hadjirli	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ahmet Effendi.†
6. Yeni-Khoi	..	..	..	..	..	..	Arif Bey.‡
Totals	..	59	59	..	135	135	
Christian Estates.							
1. Alika	..	26	26	..	51	51	M. Quaverth, of London.
2. Kavalo-Dendi	..	..	..	..	..	..	G. Kantali, of Volo.‡
3. Kissaro	..	10	10	..	18	18	Church property.
4. Tchaiiri	..	7	7	..	16	16	G. Kantali, of Volo.
Totals	..	43	43	..	85	85	

* In the number of 49 houses in Calivia, 39 huts are included.
† These three estates being near Armyro, the tenants have their dwellings in that town.
‡ Tenants' houses in town of Armyro.

SUMMARY of Foregoing Returns.

Town, Villages, and Estates.	Numbers of Houses.			Male Population.		
	Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christians.	Total.
Houses and population of—						
Armyro	310	170	480	519	467	986
Nine Turkish villages	170	..	170	426	..	426
Eight Christian villages	..	664	664	..	1,681	1,681
Six Turkish estates	..	59	59	..	135	135
Four Christian estates	..	43	43	..	85	85
Totals	480	938	1,418	945	2,368	3,313

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Larissa, August 12, 1878.

Inclosure 4 in No. 66.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, August 12, 1878.

Sir,

IT is satisfactory to be able to report to your Excellency that, although there are still numerous bands of brigands about, owing to the judicious disposition and diligent movements of the troops, they have not succeeded, since the date of my last Report upon brigandage, in committing any murder or other act of serious violence. Seven brigands have surrendered themselves to the military authorities of Tricalla, and two others to those of Allassona. The names of the first lot are not given; those of the second are Tasho Bendeni, native of Belatz, and Yanni Vlugheli, of Cofofos, both villages in district of Allassona.

Telegrams were received on the 10th instant from Shevket Pasha, at Kozana, in Macedonia, reporting that the Albanian robbers, Omer Ibrahim and Salih, who have committed numberless acts of murder and highway robbery, were apprehended by the troops on the 9th in the vicinity of that town.

Shevket Pasha also reports that the Bulgarian robber chief "Capitan" Cocovich was discovered (on the 8th instant) concealed in a house at Kozana, where he was suffering from severe wounds which he had received in a late encounter with the local police.

Yesterday the Commander-in-chief, Ali Saïb Pasha, also received a telegraphic report from Ahmet Pasha, the Commandant at Tricalla, stating that a military patrol had encountered, the 8th instant, on the slopes of the Agrapha Mountains, half-way between Metzovo and Tricalla, the robber chief Tchitcho Mitzo, with his numerous band, had killed him and three of his companions, and wounded several others. Only four of the soldiers were slightly wounded. These robbers were trying to cross the plain on their way to Mount Olympus.

M. Palmides, the Greek Consul here, having read to me an extract of a letter, dated the 5th instant, which he had received from his agent at Tricalla, and in which it is stated that it was rumoured in that town that the Turkish frontier guard, after a very severe engagement, near Mouzaki, in the Agrapha Mountains, with a large band of so-called insurgents under the leadership of Efthimio Catchoora and Grigorio, had been repulsed, with a loss of ten killed, ten wounded, and fifty prisoners. I made inquiries both from the military authorities and from private sources, and have satisfied myself that, although there is some foundation for the rumour referred to, it appears to be very much exaggerated. What took place is this. On the 6th instant a company of troops suddenly came upon a band (supposed to be that of Tchitcho Mitzo) in a defile in the Agrapha Mountains; shots were exchanged, but, as it was late in the evening, the contest was not continued. It resulted in the wounding of two of the soldiers and of one of the brigands, who was seen carried away by the others.

In a conversation I had yesterday with Ali Saïb Pasha, he told me that he had

received and peremptorily refused an application from the authorities of Monastir to employ Bashi-Bazouks against the Bulgarian and Albanian bandits in that district; and that he had communicated that decision to the Seraskier, at the same time directing the military Commandant at Salonica to dispatch two battalions to Monastir.

I seized the opportunity to applaud his resolution in this respect.

I regret having to report to your Excellency that a Greek church in the vicinity of the Turkish village Yaïjilar (Doxaru, in Greek), about four hours from here, was recently desecrated. Upon the fact being brought to the notice of the Governor of Thessaly, Said Pasha, his Excellency at once dispatched an officer of police to inquire into the circumstances, with orders to apprehend the guilty parties. According to this officer's report, it seems that the Christian tenants in this village had transferred themselves to another estate, leaving their church locked up without any attendant; and that a few days after the departure of the tenants some Turkish children of the village broke into the church and disfigured and publicly derided some of its images. Said Pasha assured me that he would cause the Mukhtars or chief men of the village to be imprisoned, and force the inhabitants to pay a fine equal to the damage done.

I have just received the inclosed Report from Colonel Synge, giving an account of his visit to Rapsani and Nezero, to which I requested him to go on his way to Catterina and Caraferia.

As Catterina is in Macedonia, I shall forward to Mr. Consul Barker the list of murders perpetrated in that district, and request him to bring it under the notice of the Governor-General of that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 66.

Colonel Synge to Consul Blunt.

Catterina, August 6, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, conformably to your instructions, I visited Rapsani, and found the inhabitants had as yet taken no steps towards restoring their houses. They make complaints towards their Mussulman neighbours, whom they accuse of having annexed their best lands; they also say that since your representations concerning their neighbours were made affairs have been better with them, and the new Mudir of Dereli gives them every protection in his power.

There have been no recent outrages in this vicinity. Taxes have recently been claimed from Rapsani, but as the village was sacked and burned, the inhabitants claim exemption for this year.

There are still five or six men from Rapsani with the brigand bands.

From Rapsani I went to Nezero, where I inquired concerning the man Deino Mássura, who was recently killed there by the troops when searching for brigands. From the evidence it would appear that this man had been out during the night protecting some newly cut hay from the cattle, and on that morning came into the village, and it being the feast of the "Holy Apostles" he said he would go out and shoot a hare; he took his gun and went out. The troops had surrounded the village, and seeing him coming out with his gun, took him for a brigand trying to escape, fired on him, and then bayonetted him.

Another villager, who had gone out for the same purpose, was concealed in a brake close by, and witnessed the unhappy occurrence.

The deceased bore an excellent character, and had not joined the insurgents. The village seems peaceably disposed.

At Catterina, during the last two days, seventeen brigands have come in and made their submission, but there still remain many in this district.

I subjoin a Return showing the loss of life by recent outrages in this mudirlik, and will endeavour to obtain a more complete one from the district of Caraferia:—

Mehmet Babali, native of Catterina, killed near Toozlou, in month of July, by brigands Vassil Capitan and Giorgi Kanaka.

Hassan Suviru, native of Catterina, killed in month of July at Karabou Dervent by brigand Giorgi Capitan from Nezero.

Four men (Christians), natives of Litochori, killed July 15 at Kria Nera, near Catterina, by Circassians.

Zako Ziata (Christian), native of Dranista, killed July 15, near Catterina by Circassians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 66.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, August 12, 1878.

Sir,

SOME of the Greek newspapers which were received here by last mail publish an extract from an article from the "Daily News" newspaper, published in London, stating that Sir Charles Dilke, M.P., had announced his intention in the House of Commons to ask Her Majesty's Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if it was true that I had tried to get up a petition from this province to the late Congress at Berlin, praying for autonomy under British protection.

I hasten emphatically to declare that there is not the slightest foundation of truth in the circumstance alluded to by Sir Charles Dilke; and to assure your Excellency that I have strictly confined myself to watching if the Porte's promises for the pacification of this province are carried out by the Ottoman authorities, and to trying to promote mutual moderation and conciliation among Christians and Mahommedans, and to induce the authorities to mitigate and correct, as much as possible, local abuses and complaints; and I venture to submit that my efforts in these respects, with the support which your Excellency has been pleased to afford to me, have in most instances been attended with favourable results.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 66.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, August 22, 1878.

Sir,

M. PALAMIDES, the Greek Consul at this place, having told me of his having heard from private sources that a certain Yannaki Zannas, Greek peasant of the village of Neohori, in the district of Tricalla, had been tortured by the local police in that locality, I directed Mr. Longworth to proceed to the spot and personally inquire into the matter.

I have the honour to inclose copy of my instructions to Mr. Longworth, as well as copy of this gentleman's Report on the subject, accompanied with copies of its two inclosures.

According to Mr. Longworth's Report, the Greek Consul appears to have been misinformed; the peasant in question has not been tortured; on the contrary, he seems to have been indulgently treated by the Turkish authorities, although he was denounced by the priest and others of his village as a party to the murder of the Turk Hassan Hussein, of the village of Baklali.

Mr. Longworth's Report also furnishes some information on the state of brigandage in Tricalla, as well as a nominal list of four Christians and eleven Mahommedans who have been murdered in that district between the 6th May, the date of the cessation of hostilities, and the present time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 66.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Longworth.

Larissa, August 15, 1878.

Sir,

IT has been stated to me that the authorities of Tricalla had recently summoned to that place twenty-five inhabitants of the village of Neohori in that district, on

suspicion of their having harboured or otherwise assisted brigands, and after detaining them at Tricalla several days, dismissed twenty-three and imprisoned two of them; further, that one of the latter, named Yannaki Zannas, was so cruelly beaten while in prison by the police that his life is despaired of.

I am anxious to learn if there is any foundation in the above statement, and I have, therefore, to instruct you to proceed to Tricalla to inquire into, and report to me upon this matter. I inclose a letter of introduction for you to the Kaimakam of Tricalla, who is directed to afford you all proper facilities in prosecuting your inquiry.

I shall be glad to have from you some account of the acts of brigandage and murder which have been perpetrated in the district of Tricalla, after the cessation of the insurrection, and I would wish you to visit, on your way back to Armyro, the district of Carditza, to note any recent occurrences there.

You would do well to call at the village of Palama, about three hours distant from Carditza, and any other villages in the vicinity which may have suffered during the late events, and inquire into the condition of their inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 66.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, August 22, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to that part of my despatch to your Excellency of the 7th instant relative to the surrender of Hellenic military deserters to the Hellenic authorities, I have the honour to further report that three more of these deserters, namely, Giorgio Coremenos, Athanassi Andonopolo, and Zissi Athanassapolo, have been delivered up to the Greek Consul here by Ali Saïb Pasha, the Commander-in-chief in Thessaly.

The Greek Consul speaks in terms of praise of the courtesy and facilities exercised by Ali Saïb Pasha, and the Mutessarif Said Pasha in these and the other dealings he has with them.

On the other hand, the Hellenic authorities have not yet surrendered any of the Turkish military deserters who have crossed into Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 10 in No. 66.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Tricalla, August 20, 1878.

Sir,

IN your instructions of the 15th instant you desired me to visit Tricalla, and report whether it is true that the local authorities had recently summoned to this place twenty-five inhabitants of the village of Neohori on suspicion of their having harboured or otherwise assisted the brigands; and whether, after detaining them at Tricalla several days, they dismissed twenty-three and imprisoned two of them; further, whether one of the latter, named Yannaki Zannas, was so cruelly beaten by the police of Tricalla that his life is despaired of.

The following are the results of my inquiries into this subject:—

It appears that at the Mahommedan village of Baklali a Turk named Hassan Hussein was murdered by the brigands on the 11th July last. On the 9th instant a body of police visited the village of Neohori, lying in the neighbourhood of Baklali. There and then the priest Triandafilo, Costandi Thanass, and some others of the village, made some avowal that two of their villagers, named Yannaki Zannis and Dimitro Costakopolos, were party to the murder of Hassan Hussein. The two latter were arrested and brought into Tricalla with those who bore witness against them. The witnesses having made their verbal depositions were allowed to return to their village the following day.

The prisoner Yannaki Zannas having eventually fallen dangerously ill, was

placed at liberty on the recommendation of the doctor. He and his fellow-prisoner Dimitri Costakopolo were both released on bail, and returned to their village on the 13th instant, the latter having been permitted to go to tend his sick companion.

I have spoken to Dr. Phitcho, who attended Zannas while in town, with regard to the prisoner's malady, and obtained from him the inclosed certificate:—

"I have visited the prison; I have questioned and cross-questioned the prisoners, and in every way endeavoured to ascertain whether Zannas really suffered from any violent treatment; and these inquiries and all the rest I have made on the subject tend to show the contrary. In fact, I have not yet heard any one in Tricalla, Christian or Turk, express the remotest supposition that Yannaki Zannas had been beaten at the village, or on his way here, or in prison."

In connection with this case I beg to make the following observations. It seems that the people here have more reason to complain that the authorities are behaving with too great lenience than with too great severity towards those who keep up any relationship with brigands.

The moderate measures adopted cannot arrest the progress of this growing evil. The aggressions of the bandits have become intolerable, and there is scarcely any security for the lives of Turks and the property of Christians in the district. Within the period of three months no less than eleven Mahommedans have been murdered by brigands in this district.

Yesterday the principal inhabitants of the Christian village of Tchoka came to me in great distress, declaring that 14,000 piastres had been taken from them by a Christian band of brigands; and that a man, a woman, and a girl had been carried off as hostages, besides another woman having had her money extorted from her by undergoing the torture of her breast being burned with red-hot coals. The authorities have little power to put a stop to this state of affairs. The military force here consists of only 2,000 men, which is quite inadequate for a district which contains more than 250 villages. The only plan of the authorities against the brigands is to seize and imprison some member of their families, in the hope of thus inducing them to accept an amnesty and return to their homes.

The following Lists contain the number of brigands that have, and have not done so during this month, which is since the plan has been put into practice.

List of Brigands who have surrendered.

Name of Brigand.	Name of his Village.	What Relative Removed from Village, and Detained in Town of Tricalla.
1. Vasili Delyanni	Trono-Merchi ..	Mother.
2. Christo Athanass	Samalina	Wife.
3. Ghiorgi Christo	Sarakina	Wife.
4. Mitro Haladi	Pinglero	Wife.
5. Lambro Mertchoti	Mertchi	Wife.
6. Christo Ghiorgios	Loskis	Brother.

List of Brigands who have not surrendered.

Name of Brigand.	Name of his Village.	What Relative Removed from Village, and Detained in Town of Tricalla.
1. Lambro Apostoli	Gourghi	Father.
2. Costandi Paloura	Papanaga	Mother.
3. Vassili Pallas	Papanaga	Father.
4. Christo Ghiorgio	Loskis	Wife.
5. Theodori Gianno	Zaptchios	Wife.
6. Yanaki Manoli	Papanaga	Mother.
7. Natcho Billa	Tricalla	Mother.
8. Mitro Tchopo	Nomni	Wife.
9. Philpo Dalessi	Nomni	Wife

There were previously three notorious brigand Chiefs in this district, Sabikotti, Leonidas, and Tchitcho Mitcho; but now there are two, the latter having been killed in a recent engagement with the Turkish troops.

Sabikotti is considered here a man of some property. I am told he does not

maltreat the Christians, but confines himself wholly to molesting the Turks, in revenge, it is said, of an injury sustained by his wife.

You have required me to furnish you a list of the murders committed in this district since the amnesty was proclaimed.

The inclosed information gives, in tabular form, the particulars I have gathered on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

Medical Certificate.

(Translation from the Greek.)

HAVING paid a visit in the prison, I affirm that the released prisoner, Yannaki Zannas, suffered from a strong gastric inflammation, followed by intermittent fever, in consequence of which he was taken out of prison.

The Doctor of the Municipality,
(Signed) K. PHITTACOS.

Tricalla, August $\frac{7}{19}$, 1878.

NAMES of Christians murdered in District of Tricalla from the 6th May to the 20th August, 1878, with particulars:

Names of Victims.	Date of Murder.	Where Murdered.	By whom Murdered.
1. Christo Corkoni	June 22 ..	Tramissi ..	Not known.
2. Costa Apostoli	July	Tchara ..	By Albanian Karamphil.
3. Mitro Mimussi	July 16 ..	Rizario ..	Not known.
4. Vassili Theodori	July 20 ..	Tramassi ..	Not known.

NAMES of Mahommedans murdered in the District of Tricalla between the 6th May and the 20th August, 1878, with particulars.

Names of Victims.	Date of Murder.	Where Murdered.	By whom Murdered.
1. Islam	May 13 ..	Shokitza ..	Most, if not all, of those Mahomedans were murdered by the followers of the brigand chief Sabikaki.
2. Tophil	" ..	" ..	
3. Jumali	" ..	" ..	
4. Mehmet-Bekir	May 30 ..	Cepriua ..	
5. Reglib-Jusuf	June 13 ..	Krichina ..	
6. Hussen	July 3 ..	Komhero ..	
7. Hassan	" ..	" ..	
8. Ferhad	July 4 ..	Ardan ..	
9. Kerim	" ..	" ..	
10. Agoush-Iouzatli	" ..	" ..	
11. Hassan-Hussein	July 11 ..	Baklali ..	

No. 67.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 1067.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney on the subject of the arrival at Prevesa of Turkish troops from Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Prevesa, August 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the arrival on the 15th instant of three Austrian Lloyd's steamers, with about 6,000 Turkish troops, a great many of whom are without rifles, and all of them in a most wretched condition, from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The above steamers were accompanied by two Austrian iron-clads, the "Hapsburg" and the "Kaiser Max," and the corvette "Nautilus," all under the command of Admiral Pokonny.

Between sixty and seventy Turkish families were also on board.

Hameli Pasha, whose duty it is to dispose of these troops, came down from Janina yesterday.

M. Kypriotis writes under date of the 12th instant that Liva Ibrahim Pasha had started from Janina on the 6th instant, in the direction of Macedonia, with three companies of soldiers, two cannon, and thirty horse to pursue brigands.

According to official information received from the local telegraph officials, telegrams in European languages are once more received at this telegraph office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. BLAKENEY.

No. 68.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1068.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert, giving reports on matters of interest in the district of Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 68.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, August 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I learn from a thoroughly reliable source that the whole of the 5th Division, whose head-quarters are at Adrianople, has been ordered to hold itself in readiness to move to Ouzoun-Koupry. It is stated in the order that this movement is consequent on the approaching embarkation of the Imperial Guard from San Stefano, and that, "although it is hoped that the embarkation will take place without any untoward incident, it is necessary to be prepared for all eventualities."

Meanwhile the authorities here have within the last week been giving out hints of the probable necessity of retarding the immediate evacuation of this province by the Russian forces, as had been intended, the reason given being that disorders have broken out in those districts where a partial withdrawal had taken place; and yesterday, during a visit paid to the Governor of Adrianople by the Greek Consul, his Excellency took occasion to inform the latter plainly that the order previously received for the troops to prepare for their return to Russia has now been countermanded.

A steady movement of troops towards the front has been in progress during the last ten days. There are now one or more military trains daily, and up to the 21st instant ten battalions had gone forward by rail to San Stefano, Tchataldja, and Tchorlou, some coming from Philippopolis and Sofia, but most from Yamboli. Four more battalions (of the 15th Division) are expected from Philippopolis in a couple of days, and they will be followed by five more, all destined for Tchataldja.

The facts stated higher up, especially the motive given for the order regarding the forward march of the Fifth Division to Ouzoun-Koupry render it unlikely that the object of these movements is embarkation for Russia, at least for the present; and

this view will be confirmed if there is any truth in the information, which I receive from a local source, of the landing of fresh troops at Bourgas from two Russian men-of-war, between the 15th and 17th instant. It is added that these reinforcements at once marched for Yamboli, where they will take the railway hitherwards.

Measures are being actively taken by the Russian military authorities to carry out a conscription among the Bulgarian population in Eastern Roumelia, towards the formation of the "National Army." I have the honour to inclose the translation of an order, which I believe to be authentic, addressed by the Russian Commandant at Mustafa-pasha to the head men of certain villages within his military jurisdiction. It will be seen that the villages named in this document are all within the limits of Eastern Roumelia. I am assured, however, that a similar order has also been sent to the district authorities at Kirk-Kilissa and other places on this side of the boundary-line fixed by the Treaty of Berlin, and between it and the line laid down by the Treaty of San Stefano; but, although I have this statement from a source usually well-informed, I hesitate to accept it without further confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 68.

Order from the Russian Commandant of Mustafa-pasha.

(Traduction.)

A MM. les Primats des villages de Cavacli, Cozludja, Buyuk-Monastir, Kutchuk-keuy, Kutchuk-Monastir, Sinapli, etc.

VOUS devez, aussitôt ma présente reçue, réunir les gendarmes, et les tenir à la disposition de mes délégués, qui sont en route pour votre village.

D'après un ordre de notre Empereur Alexandre vous devez, d'accord avec mes délégués, procéder au sort des conscrits pour l'Armée Nationale.

Je vous ordonne en même temps d'agir de manière, et par tous les moyens, à ce que des jeunes gens appartenant à d'autres nationalités, et âgés de 23 à 30 ans s'inscrivent comme volontaires.

En agissant ainsi et avec prudence vous mériterez la bienveillance de notre Auguste Empereur Alexandre.

(Signé) ПАВАОЅВКІЙ ОКРУГА. КАЙМ СМАХРЕВРЕ.

Le $\frac{21 \text{ Août}}{2 \text{ Sept.}}$, 1878.

Inclosure 3 in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 21, 1878.

Sir,

I BEG to forward to your Excellency herewith copy of a letter addressed to me, and published in his newspaper, by the editor of the Bulgarian newspaper "Maritza."

The same paper, during the fortnight it has been in existence, has published a series of most scurrilous articles on the British Government, Ambassadors, and Consuls, articles which, the paper in question being the official organ of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, may be presumed to express his Excellency's opinions, if not those of the Russian Government.

By permitting the publication of violent tirades against England, and against the decisions of the Congress, the Russian authorities in Roumelia are doing much to foster the agitation—factitious in the beginning, no doubt—which I have had the honour to report to your Excellency. The Bulgarian newspaper finds an audience in every Bulgarian village of the province, where the local schoolmaster reads out the quasi-patriotic passages to the ignorant peasants. The hatred of England thus aroused has given birth to a national war song against the Turks and the English, which is very popular now with the Bulgarian soldiers. To-day the recruits, who have just arrived from the villages, are tramping through the streets, shouting: "Down with England; long live Russia," &c.

The task of the "International Commission for Roumelia" will, in all probability, be rendered doubly difficult by the prevalence of such feelings among the Bulgarians, and it is to be feared that every day's delay in the arrival of the Commission will increase the difficulties which it will have to overcome, and which the Russians anticipate—I do not hesitate to say—with the utmost satisfaction.

The Bulgarian army, which is now being formed, is spoken of by the Russians as likely to prove a valuable auxiliary force in the second war, which they all seem to expect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

P.S.—I never stated, in my Report of the 16th March, that the Turkish refugee women were violated by "Bulgarian soldiers." That statement is due to an error, of translation apparently, in the French version of my Report, published by the "Constantinople Messenger."

F. R. J. C.

Inclosure 4 in No. 68.

The Editor of the "Maritza" to Vice-Consul Calvert.

Plowdiw, le $\frac{7}{19}$ *Août*, 1878.

M. le Vice-Consul,

DANS un de vos Rapports au Gouvernement Britannique, reproduit par le "Constantinople Messenger" du 10 Août, nous lisons le passage suivant:—

"En obéissant à un ordre du Grand Duc Nicolas, que les fugitifs Turcs, que l'on savait être cachés dans les Montagnes du Rhodope, fussent amenés à retourner dans la plaine par des assurances de protection, une Proclamation fut faite, les invitant à revenir sans crainte. Plusieurs milliers obéissaient à la sommation, car ils périssaient de froid et de faim. Sur le chemin de retour ils furent fréquemment attaqués, à coups de fusil, par les Bulgares, et frustrés dans leurs biens. . . . . Je crois aussi que l'on peut dire, sans exagération, que toutes les jeunes femmes de ces réfugiés ont été violées par les soldats Bulgares et Russes."

Si nous n'avions pas de raisons d'être sûrs que les Rapports de Consuls Anglais à leur Gouvernement ne sont qu'un tissu de mensonges faites sur commande et dans le but de dénigrer les Russes et les Bulgares, vos paroles, que nous venons de citer, nous en persuaderaient.

Comment les soldats Bulgares, qui n'ont passé en Thrace que vers la fin du mois de Mai, auraient-ils pu violer des femmes Turques sur la route des Rhodopes un mois de Janvier ou de Février? Nous ne relevons dans ces paroles que ce mensonge, dont l'univers entier en conviendra, puisque tout le monde sait qu'après la défaite des Turcs à Chipka les milices Bulgares furent envoyées, par Eleon, opérer dans le Touzlouk, où elles sont restées jusqu'au mois de Mai, et qu'entre ces deux dates il n'y a eu en Thrace un seul soldat Bulgare.

Il n'est pas moins faux qu'une Proclamation aurait été adressée aux fugitifs Turcs dans les Rhodopes pour les engager à revenir dans la plaine; et nous vous défions, M. le Vice-Consul, de nous en montrer un exemplaire daté du temps des froids et des neiges—de nous en montrer un seul exemplaire daté du temps des froids et des neiges—dont vous parlez dans vôtre Rapport.

Ainsi, donc, toute cette histoire des fugitifs trompés par des Proclamations leur assurant la sécurité, et maltraités et violés après par des Russes et des Bulgares, n'est qu'une odieuse invention qui vous aura été soufflée par votre entourage, qui partage les sentiments du Gouvernement actuel Anglais envers les Russes et les Bulgares.

(Signé) LA RÉDACTION.

P.S.—Nous avons pris des mesures pour démontrer par des preuves les plus convaincantes que vos autres assertions aussi ne sont que des calomnies, puisées à la même source où puisent ordinairement les journaux Grecs de Constantinople.

Inclosure 5 in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 21, 1878.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to report to your Excellency that Hadji Arif Agha, and Hadji Shaban Agha, are still in prison, although an order for their release was received here from San Stefano on Sunday last (the 18th instant).

The order in question was forwarded in a sealed envelope to the nephew of Hadji Arif Agha; it was accompanied by a Russian passport to enable Hadji Arif Agha to leave for Constantinople immediately on his release, and it was handed to the Russian authorities here on the 19th instant.

On reading the order, the President of the tribunal charged with the trial of the two Turkish notables promised, as I am informed, that they should be set at liberty in the course of the day; but he afterwards refused to release them, and it is conjectured that Prince Dondoukoff took upon himself the responsibility of keeping them in prison.

In the meantime a preliminary examination of witnesses in the case has been held, and the indictment founded upon their depositions has been placed in the hands of the prisoners. It informs them that their trial is fixed to take place on the 24th instant.

The friends of the prisoners have petitioned for a delay, to enable them to secure the services of an Advocate from Constantinople.

So far as I have been able to learn, the evidence of the witnesses who have been examined is excessively vague, and only establishes the fact that "public opinion" imputed to the two Aghas a share in encouraging the massacres of 1876.

Arif Agha is still confined in the murderers' cell. Public rumour says that he will be executed. Shaban Agha is now imprisoned in the room in which the Gueshoffs were confined last year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of an official circular which I have received from the Russian Governor of Philippopolis, announcing that the great annual fair of Ouzoundjova, in the district of Hasskeui, which has not taken place for the last two years on account of the Bulgarian troubles and the late war, will be held as usual next month.

It is to be feared that, notwithstanding all the facilities and guarantees of security that may be given by the Russian authorities, few traders will attend the fair this year, for the following reasons:—

1. Burglaries and robberies have greatly increased at Philippopolis of late, and it is argued that, as the Russian authorities cannot prevent such crimes in the towns, they will be unable to prevent them from occurring on a much larger scale at Ouzoundjova.

2. The traders who were formerly in the habit of attending the fair used to come from all parts of European Turkey, even from Servia, Roumania, and Bosnia. But, apart from the impoverishment that has lately been suffered by these countries, the political situation is not at present such as to encourage merchants to transport their goods to a distance.

3. It is reported that the whole of the permanent shops and warehouses (3,500 in number) at Ouzoundjova, which were the property of Turks of that village and of Hasskeui, have been destroyed by the Bulgarians. It is not likely that traders will incur the expense of rebuilding them at the present time, or even of erecting temporary booths, which would afford little protection against thieves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 68.

Baron Hübsch-Grossthal to Vice-Consul Calvert.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{5}{17}$ *Août*, 1878.

M. le Consul,

DANS le but d'offrir au commerce et à l'industrie les moyens de se développer, la foire d'Ouzundjova, qui avait lieu chaque année le $\frac{8}{20}$ Septembre, et dont la guerre avait suspendu la réunion, sera ouverte cette année à la date susdite.

L'administration prendra toutes les mesures nécessaires pour assurer aux négociants et marchands qui voudraient y apporter leurs marchandises toutes les garanties de sécurité voulues.

En vous informant de cette mesure, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier, M. le Consul, de vouloir, de votre côté, prévenir, sans retard, les marchands, sujets du Gouvernement que vous représentez, pour qu'ils aient le temps de prendre leurs dispositions en temps voulu.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Gouverneur,
(Signé) BARON HÜBSCH-GROSSTHAL.

No. 69.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1072. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 27, 1878.

I AVAILED myself of an opportunity, at an interview with the Sultan this morning, to bring to his notice the accusations against Djevdet Pasha, the Governor-General of Syria, of gross corruption and of taking bribes. Consul-General Eldridge and the British Vice-Consul at Damascus have repeatedly called my attention to the misconduct in this respect of this functionary.

His Majesty said that he was not unaware of the bad reputation of Djevdet Pasha; that he was an able and learned man, but, unfortunately, extremely avaricious of money, which he was ready to take whenever and wherever he could get it. As I was aware, he was removed from his office of Minister of the Interior, and sent to Syria to get him out of the way, as he was a notorious intriguer, and it would not be desirable to bring him back to the capital. His Majesty added that he should not be allowed to remain at Damascus, and that he would send him to some district where he could do less harm, and where his zeal and activity might be of use; probably to that of Zietoun, where some disorders had recently broken out.

I hinted to His Majesty that it would be very desirable to make a public example of Djevdet Pasha, if it could be proved that he had been guilty of the misconduct attributed to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 70.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1074. Secret.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 28, 1878.

I HAD a very interesting interview yesterday with the Sultan. His Majesty had invited me to Zildiz Kiosk to see an album which he had prepared for the Queen, and which is to contain the portraits of his sons, whom he has the intention of sending to England for their education. He expressed to me, in very warm terms, his gratitude to Her Majesty for the interest she shows in himself and his children, and the hope that Her Majesty will accept the album as a "souvenir," this word being written in diamonds (as he pointed out to me) on the binding. He then spoke of some kind allusions to himself which Lord Beaconsfield and you had made in your recent speeches. They appeared to please him exceedingly. He remarked that the advice given by your Lordship entirely agreed with the views and intentions which he had entertained since

his accession to the throne, and that he earnestly wished to deserve the favourable opinion which the Prime Minister and you had formed of him.

After some desultory conversation about his children and the album His Majesty turned to the question of reforms. He observed that the time had now come for carrying them out, and he had been seriously engaged in considering how he could best do so with the approval and to the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government. He was earnestly desirous of retaining the friendship of England, and he hoped that Turkey would show herself worthy of being England's ally. He knew, he said, that her advice was intended for his own good and for the welfare of his country, and he was resolved to act upon it to the utmost of his power. He then said that he considered the Memorandum I had given him relating to the measures to be taken for the improvement of his Empire and for the development of its resources to be altogether a confidential document, and that consequently he should not send it to the Porte, but keep it amongst his private papers for his own guidance, with the intention of acting upon the suggestions it contained as opportunities occurred for him to do so. He had now, he added, before him the official statement that I had submitted to the Porte of the reforms required by Her Majesty's Government for his Asiatic territories, and he hoped to be able to satisfy Her Majesty's Government with respect to them. His Majesty pronounced them to be quite practicable and acceptable. The measure of converting the tithes into a fixed charge upon the land would be equally beneficial, he observed, to the State and to the agricultural classes; but it might not be easy to carry it out in the present temper of the people, who were dissatisfied and discontented in consequence of the general distress and penury. It was partly on this account that he so earnestly desired to obtain a loan to withdraw the "caimé," which was the principal cause of the present feeling against the Government. His Majesty went at some length into the question of the abolition of the tithes, and the way in which it should be brought about. He had evidently been considering the matter. I said that I had heard that the experiment had been tried with complete success in one Turkish province. He was not aware of the fact, but promised to make inquiries on the subject.

His Majesty informed me that he had thought over my suggestion about giving Baker Pasha a command in Anatolia, that he had decided upon doing so at once, and that he would probably leave within a week.

I told His Majesty that I was convinced that such an appointment would be greatly to his own interest, and could not fail to make a favourable impression in England. It would be accepted as a proof that he was sincerely bent upon reforming the administration, restoring order, and affording proper security to his subjects. I impressed upon him that it was my earnest desire, as I felt convinced that it was that of Her Majesty's Government, that the reforms to be introduced for the improvement of his Empire and for the welfare of his people should be initiated by himself, and that his subjects should feel that they were indebted to him for them. It was very far, I said, from the wish of Her Majesty's Government to impose anything upon him at variance with his sovereign rights and authority, which, on the contrary, we earnestly desired to respect and uphold. His Majesty answered that he was convinced that such was the case.

I observed that I was glad to hear that he was about to issue his Iradé for the establishment of an "école de droit," such as he had informed me some time ago it was his intention to found, and that a searching inquiry was about to be instituted into the working of the Tribunals, and measures taken to reform them. The Sultan replied that it was his firm intention to put into execution this and other reforms that he had mentioned to me; but that he could only do so little by little, as the want of money met him at every turn, and without money nothing really important and radical could be effected. He, therefore, again begged me to tell your Lordship how great a service you would be rendering to himself and to his Empire, and how greatly you would assist him in carrying out the reforms desired by Her Majesty's Government, if you would help him to obtain a loan.

I subsequently heard from the Grand Vizier that Commissioners are to be appointed at once to visit the Tribunals in Asiatic Turkey, and to report upon them, and that it is the Sultan's intention that resident inspectors should be named to every vilayet, and, where the state of the finances allowed it, even to smaller districts, whose duty it would be to see that justice was properly administered, and to report to the Minister of Justice any dereliction of duty or corruption on the part of the Judges. His Highness promised to let me have very shortly a copy of the instructions or regulations which are being prepared on this subject. I observed that this measure

was no doubt a good one, if honest men could be employed to carry it out. There was the difficulty.

The Sultan then referred to the great corruption which unhappily prevails amongst Turkish functionaries of all classes, and lamented his inability to find really upright and capable men to fill public places of trust and importance. This led to an interesting conversation relating to different public men and to Governors of provinces, with whose characters His Majesty seemed very well acquainted. I thought the opportunity a favourable one of bringing to his notice the conduct of Djevdet Pasha. I have referred to this subject in a separate despatch.

His Majesty informed me that he had the intention to introduce before long some new men into his Ministry, retaining Safvet Pasha, of whom he spoke as usual in high terms, as Grand Vizier; but, he observed, his Highness had much more to do than he could possibly get through, and the consequence was that the public interests were necessarily neglected and suffered, for one man could not attend to everything. I expressed my cordial agreement with this observation, and explained to him how business was carried on in England and in other countries where Ministerial responsibility existed, and there was a proper division of labour and of authority. I ventured to suggest one or two men whom I thought would strengthen the Government and would relieve Safvet Pasha from a part of his duties. His Majesty said that he entirely approved of the persons that I had mentioned, and he added one or two to the list. He explained to me very fully how it was that he had been led to make some ill-advised changes, and to remove persons from the capital who were serving him faithfully and well; amongst them he mentioned the two Said Pashas. He attributed his error to the intrigues of Mahmoud Damat Pasha, who had unfortunately obtained at one time a great ascendancy over Said Pasha, the ex-Secretary, and had led him into a position which was displeasing not only to the Ministers and the public, but to His Majesty himself, and had been the cause of much mischief. His Majesty said that Said Pasha was an able man, and that his services might be especially useful at the present time. I ventured to observe that I thought his recall to the capital might produce an unfavourable impression on public opinion. His Majesty said that he agreed with me; but he thought that the feeling against him would soon pass away. At any rate I might be certain that he had no intention whatever of naming him Grand Vizier, which was a far too high and difficult post for him. His Majesty will probably avail himself of an ancient custom to make some Ministerial changes at the feast of Bairam, which will take place in about a month's time. It is very important that he should do so, as at the present moment the Government is exceedingly weak, and it is highly necessary that Safvet Pasha should obtain more assistance in the discharge of his arduous duties, and more support for his policy than he now receives from his colleagues. His Majesty told me that he had received information of the proceedings of Russia in Afghanistan and of her intrigues against the English rule in India. He expressed great satisfaction at the commencement of the embarkation of the Russian troops at San Stefano; but he seemed to think that very cordial relations could not be established between Turkey and Russia, nor would exist in future between England and Russia.

On leaving His Majesty, he said, "Pray tell Lord Salisbury again that if he wishes to enable me to carry out the reforms which are absolutely necessary for the safety and improvement of my Empire, he must help me to get some money."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 71.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1075.)

Therapia, August 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a document, sent to me by the Sultan, referring to the sufferings of some Mussulman refugees in Bulgaria, who accuse Savfi Pasha of not having obtained sufficient security for them from the Russian authorities before sending them back to their homes. His Majesty has also communicated to me a long list of acts of violence and outrage alleged to have been committed by Bulgarians upon Mahommedans in the district of Shumla, with which it is scarcely

necessary for me to trouble your Lordship, as abundant cases of the same nature are reported to this Embassy by British Consular Agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 71.

The Kaimakam of Shumla to Kiazim Bey.

(Traduction.) *Le 11 Août*, 1878.

LA requête recouverte de 500 signatures et renfermant les plaintes des Musulmans de Sistova que leurs délégués doivent présentir à la Sublime Porte est réellement émouvante. Les réfugiés expédiés d'ici attendent depuis ving-et-un jours le long de la Rivière Yantra, dans un état de dénûment complet, sans pouvoir encore rentrer dans leurs villages. Qu'il est triste d'entendre que plus de cent individus sont morts de faim et que le reste est en train de trépasser. La cause de cet état lamentable est l'insistance qu'a mise Serri Pacha à les pousser à rentrer dans leurs foyers avant d'avoir acquis les assurances nécessaires et compris la situation, et tout en emprisonnant ceux qui voulaient faire entendre les misères qu'ils ont endurées lors de leur émigration à Choumla. D'autre part il a écrit lui-même à la Sublime Porte pour signaler les calamités qu'il a vues à Rasgrad. Je me remets aux sentiments d'humanité dont votre Excellence est animée pour la prier avec instance de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires à Varna afin de sauver la population Musulmane de toutes ces calamités dont elle est l'objet, et ces malheureux ont confiance dans le Gouvernement paternel de Sa Majesté le Sultan, notre Auguste Souverain.

No. 72.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 1076.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 29, 1878.*

AFTER a good deal of discussion as to the persons to be sent to Crete to act as Commissioners to bring the disorders and insurrection in that island to an end, by coming to an understanding with the National Assembly, the Porte has decided upon naming Ghazi Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha to proceed at once upon this mission. He will concert measures with the present Governor-General, Costaki Pasha, for entering into communication with the Cretan leaders, with a view to arriving at an agreement as to the changes that should be made in the Organic Law, for the purpose of satisfying the just and reasonable demands of the Christian population.

The Grand Vizier is desirous of availing himself of the mediation and good offices of Her Majesty's Consul in bringing about a settlement of the Cretan questions, and of avoiding any further bloodshed.

I have informed his Highness that I will request Mr. Sandwith to give Mukhtar Pasha all the assistance in his power, and to do his best to prevail upon the Chiefs to accept, in a corresponding spirit, the conciliatory overtures of the Porte. I understand from Safvet Pasha that the conditions proposed by the Cretan National Assembly are acceptable in principle, and that he foresees no serious difficulty in coming to an understanding with the Christian Cretans upon them.

Mukhtar Pasha is accompanied by Salim Effendi, whose name is, perhaps, favourably known to your Lordship from his connection with Mr. Baring's mission to Bulgaria two years ago. He has the reputation of being an honest, impartial, and conciliatory man.

I inclose copy of the instructions I have given to Mr. Sandwith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Sir A. H. Layard to Consul Sandwith.

Sir, *Therapia, August 27, 1878.*

THE Porte has named Ghazi Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha to be its Commissioner in Crete for bringing, in conjunction with Costaki Pasha, to a settlement the differences which have arisen between the Turkish authorities of the island and the Christian population, and which has unfortunately led to much bloodshed and desolation. As I have already informed you, the Grand Vizier has expressed his opinion to me that the conditions proposed by the Cretan Chiefs, as described in your despatch to me, No. 94 of the 1st instant, are acceptable in principle, and form the basis of an understanding between the Porte and the National Assembly. I understand that Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha will be instructed to agree with the National Assembly to a modification of the Organic Law in conformity with them. I believe the Porte to be really desirous of dealing with the Cretan question in a just and liberal manner, and I trust that he will be met by the Cretan National Assembly in a similar spirit.

His Highness has requested me to instruct you to use your good offices to bring about an understanding between the Imperial Commissioners and the Cretan leaders. You are aware that Her Majesty's Government have authorized you to offer your mediation with this object, and for the purpose of putting an end to the regretable state of things that had existed for some time past in the island. I have every hope that the influence which you possess over the Christian Chiefs, and their confidence in your impartiality and the desire of Her Majesty's Government to promote the true interests of the Christian populations, will enable you to induce them to come to a just and reasonable arrangement, which will lead to the future good government of the island. You will impress upon them the importance of not asking too much, and of running the risk of continuing a struggle which has already led to so much suffering and disaster. Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha will be accompanied by Salim Effendi, who has the reputation of being liberal-minded, efficient, and conciliatory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 73.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 603. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 26, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY spoke to me yesterday at some length of the violent attacks to which he was exposed because he persisted in endeavouring to come to an understanding with the Porte, and to conclude a Convention respecting the occupation of Bosnia. He was pressed on all sides to regard the province as simply acquired by Austria by force of arms, but he had no intention of departing by a single line from the decisions that had been come to at Berlin. Bosnia should be occupied by Austria and administered by her, but nothing more, and he would still, as provided in the Treaty, try to come to an agreement with the Porte upon the subject, but the pressure which was being put upon him might make it difficult for him to consent to all the terms which he had at an earlier period declared himself willing to adopt.

He remarked, with truth, that he had said from the first that if the hesitation of the Porte prevented the speedy conclusion of the Convention he proposed, the progress of events might soon render it impossible for him to make one as favourable to the Turkish Government; but he did not intimate to me that if Carathéodory Pasha were now to receive authority to conclude the arrangement, he would decline to adhere to the points to which he had given his assent.

The most satisfactory and the most important statement that his Excellency made to me was that, even if he should be forced to give up the Convention, which was so much opposed by public opinion, he should at least stand firm by his policy, and that, with a Convention or without one, that policy would be to stand between Turkey and further Slav encroachment. If the Convention were made, and the Austrian occupation fully carried out, he would, as he had promised, by an exchange of notes with the Porte, engage to protect Turkey from attack by Servia or Montenegro; but though, if no Convention were made, he would take no such engagement towards the Porte,

his policy would remain unaltered, and he would still curb any ambitious designs attempted by the two Principalities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 74.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 604. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 26, 1878.*

WHILE speaking of the Commission investigating the case of the Rhodope refugees, Count Andrassy admitted that he had informed Colonel Raab, the Austrian Commissioner, that it was more essential to ascertain what could be done for those unfortunate people than to look for charges against the Russians, although it was evident that the proceedings of the latter had been more outrageous than could have been thought possible.

I reminded his Excellency that one of the first duties of the Commission, as laid down in their instructions, had been to ascertain the causes which had made them leave their homes. Count Andrassy answered that under this instruction the Commission was no doubt justified in taking evidence to enable it to judge whether the people had not been the victims of maltreatment which had induced them to fly, but this fact was so amply established that he saw no advantage in pushing the inquiry into it further.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 608.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 27, 1878.*

THE elections for the Hungarian Reichsrath are now concluded, and all parties profess themselves gratified with the result of them. That the Government should be contented with obtaining a majority of fully seventy, which is a decided gain upon that which they had before, is easily to be understood, but the satisfaction expressed by the Opposition, when their strength has been materially reduced, is not so intelligible to me.

It is, however, very clear, notwithstanding the result of the elections, that there is throughout Hungary a strong feeling of dissatisfaction against Count Andrassy and M. Tisza.

This has been exhibited in a marked manner at Pesth and in another district by the refusal of the Sub-Prefect to respond to the call of the Hungarian Minister to furnish their contingent of reserve horses for the Bosnian army of occupation.

I am assured that the action of these functionaries is at direct variance with the law, which allows them no discretion as to obeying or declining an injunction such as they had received; but the Administrative Council of Pesth, though not persisting in the refusal, showed the warmest sympathy for the Vice-Prefect who had taken such a marked manner of exhibiting disapprobation of the Bosnian occupation, against which some strong speeches were uttered amidst the general applause of the Council.

The more that the occupation assumes an appearance of an act of hostility towards Turkey the more distasteful does it become to the Hungarians, and the knowledge of this feeling among his countrymen contributes no doubt materially to the anxiety of Count Andrassy to conclude a Convention with the Porte which shall give it a more friendly character, but, as I have already informed your Lordship, those who are opposed to it are daily gaining in strength.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 76.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 610. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 28, 1878.*

CARATHÉODORY PASHA has informed me that the Porte has authorized him to accept the modifications insisted upon by Count Andrassy in the proposed Convention upon the Bosnian occupation, but that his Excellency, to whom he had communicated his instructions, had declared himself unable definitively to conclude anything till another council of Ministers was held upon the return of the Emperor, who had left Vienna for a few days.

The Pasha showed some anxiety and doubt whether Count Andrassy would now consent to the preamble of the Convention, which affirmed the provisional character of the occupation, although this had been distinctly expressed in the Memorandum signed at Berlin by his Excellency, Count Carolyi, and Baron Haymerle, in the name of the Imperial Government, and he begged me to urge Count Andrassy not to make a difficulty about it, which in the face of that declaration he would not be justified in doing.

I promised, if an opportunity offered, to encourage Count Andrassy in meeting the wishes of the Porte, but he must recollect that, as I was not supposed to have cognizance of the Memorandum signed at Berlin, I was debarred from the power of making use of it as an argument.

I informed your Lordship, in a recent despatch, that the signature of the Ottoman Representatives to the Treaty of Berlin would at the last moment have been withheld, if they had not obtained from the Austro-Hungarian Plenipotentiaries a declaration of the provisional character of the proposed occupation, and it would seem difficult for Count Andrassy now entirely to ignore it, for though the document has hitherto been conscientiously kept secret, should it transpire, as it undoubtedly will if the Convention breaks down, the whole transaction would not redound to the credit of the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 77.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 617. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 31, 1878.*

I SAW Carathéodory Pasha yesterday afternoon, just after he had returned from a long conversation with Count Andrassy, who had peremptorily refused to admit into the proposed Convention even the remotest allusion to the occupation of Bosnia being of a provisional character.

His Excellency showed himself embarrassed when reminded of the declaration he had signed at Berlin, but was not to be moved from his resolution, and he at the same time withdrew from the promise he had made that the Turkish flag might be exhibited along with that of Austria-Hungary.

Carathéodory Pasha seemed thoroughly dispirited at this result of all his endeavours, and is disposed to give up the task in despair, and to allow events to take their course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 78.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 618.)
Vienna, August 31, 1878.

My Lord,

BARON ORCZY informed me this afternoon that it is definitively settled that the rank of the Austro-Hungarian Representatives in Servia and Montenegro shall be that of Minister Resident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 79.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 620.)
Vienna, August 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed by Vice-Consul Faber to Mr. Monson on the subject of torpedoes awaiting exportation at Fiume.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Vice-Consul Faber to Mr. Monson.

Fiume, August 30, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the prohibition of the exportation of torpedoes has not been rescinded up to the present time.

An exception has been made in respect of fifty French and ten Portuguese torpedoes which have been allowed to be exported.

The Russians have taken delivery of further twenty-five torpedoes, and have now altogether fifty torpedoes lying here; all efforts on their part to secure the necessary permission for exportation have hitherto proved unavailing.

The French have still fifty torpedoes awaiting the permission for their exportation; the Turks five torpedoes.

The Austro-Hungarian Government is now taking delivery of twenty torpedoes, and the torpedo-boat "Seehund" is here for torpedo practice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GEO. S. FABER.

No. 80.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 621.)
Vienna, September 1, 1878.

My Lord,

ACCORDING to the official nominal list of killed and wounded, the loss of the Austro-Hungarian army at the capture of Bosna-Serai on the 19th ultimo amounted to 50, including 1 officer, killed, and 292, including 8 officers, wounded.

The advance towards the place on the 15th and 17th had cost 7 killed and 81 wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 81.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 5.)
Vienna, August 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 5 of the 20th instant, containing instructions for my guidance as Her Majesty's Commissioner under the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

There is one point on which I should be glad to receive special instructions from your Lordship.

From the conversations I have had with your Lordship I gathered that, under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty, the Sublime Porte is to take the advice of the Roumelian Commission on the subject of the modifications to be introduced into the Règlement Organique of Crete.

The 4th paragraph of the Article in question runs thus:—"Les projets d'organization resultant de ces travaux seront soumis à l'examen de la Sublime Porte qui, avant de promulguer les actes destinés à les mettre en vigueur, prendra l'avis de la Commission Européenne instituée pour la Roumélie Orientale."

I observed that a few days ago, in the House of Commons, Mr. Bourke expressed a belief that this provision referred only to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Article, and not to the paragraph 1.

On again reading the clause I certainly think that it admits of considerable doubt, and may be interpreted either way.

It is therefore, I think, essential that I should be strengthened with a decided expression of the views of Her Majesty's Government on a point which may be raised, or discussed at an early meeting of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 82.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 9.)
Vienna, August 24, 1878.

My Lord,

CARATHEODORY PASHA called on me this morning.

His Excellency explained to me at length his views as to the Constitution to be given to Eastern Roumelia, declaring them, however, to be personal and not official.

He stated that this province was the only thing that had been gained by Turkey in the Treaty of Berlin, and he was of opinion that it should be made in reality a province of the Empire, where the rule of the Sultan was to be exercised as over every other part of his dominion, the privileges of the Christians being made safe by the stipulations introduced into the Treaty in their favour.

I answered him in the same personal manner. I told him that, in my opinion, the Treaty was to be interpreted thus—viz., that the power and authority of the Sultan should be made clear and indisputable in the points essential to the stability and defence of his just rights, while the autonomy of the populations in other respects should be placed on the footing of constitutional freedom enjoyed by other European nations.

His Excellency did not concur with me in this view, but preferred the converse.

The rights of the province he thought should be first established, and the rest should be left to the Sultan.

If too much power were given to the Slav race the result would be the reproduction of the Treaty of San Stefano; Eastern Roumelia would be united to Bulgaria north of the Balkans, and Constantinople would be threatened by a hostile State comprising the Russianized Bulgaria which Russia had at first proposed, and which she still was bent on erecting.

It would be useless to give to Turkey an isolated position in the Balkans between two States, one of which was wholly, and the other practically, independent of her rule.

I asked his Excellency to look for a moment on the other side of the picture. If, as he wished, great powers over Roumelia were reserved to the Central Government at Constantinople, should we not be reproducing a state of things which all, friends or

enemies, had condemned, the rule of a knot of Pashas in the capital interested not in the welfare of the subjects of the Sultan, but in the advancement of their own fortunes? Would it not be possible by the institution of a good government and sound administration in Eastern Roumelia to incline the inhabitants of Bulgaria Proper to wish for annexation to Eastern Roumelia, even with the sovereignty of the Sultan, rather than to establish in the latter province an order of things which might lead its inhabitants to seek for annexation to Bulgaria. The Commission could, with the Sultan, in my opinion, consistently go much further in the way of conferring constitutional liberties than was possible for Russia in Bulgaria.

I pointed out as an analogy the case of Austrian Poland and of Russian Poland. In the former the inhabitants were perfectly satisfied with their Government, no subjects were more loyal; while we all know that the hatred and discontent of the Polish subjects of the Czar are one of the standing dangers of his Empire.

His Excellency then went on to say that what was really wanted in Eastern Roumelia was not self-government, but if he might use the phrase, "self-administration." Such was the state of things in Dalmatia and Galicia, and this is what he proposed for Eastern Roumelia. "This," I asked him, "you would prefer to a dualistic régime like that of Hungary," and he answered in the affirmative.

In matters of detail, both great and small, his Excellency seemed desirous of extensive reforms. The equality of all before the law, the revision of the law affecting the tenure of land, the introduction of a law of mortgage which does not exist, the abolition of the farming of taxes and even of the dimes, the reorganization of the tribunals, he considers as urgently necessary.

He insists, however, on the Mussulmans being allowed to manage their own domestic affairs such as the relations between a man and his own family.

As regards the system of voting for the representative bodies, he advocated the protection of minorities, and concurred in a suggestion I made as to three-cornered constituencies.

He intimated, however, an objection to a proposal I threw out, that the management and farming out of State property, such as lands and minerals, and the granting of Commissions for public works, should be confided to a local administration.

I confess, however, I do not see how without this the Commission can properly organize the administration of the provincial revenues.

His Excellency then urged as a reason in support of his general scheme that if the Commission adopted such a plan of autonomy it would be acceptable to the Porte, which would at once apply it to the other provinces indicated in the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

By this means he said the Commission would establish a uniform system for the whole of European Turkey.

In conclusion, I suggested that it would be wise for the Porte to prepare, against the arrival of the Commission, proposals which might at all events serve as a basis of discussion. At the same time, I strongly pressed upon him the necessity of establishing a state of things in Eastern Roumelia that would effectually prevent the recurrence of the abuses which had led to recent disasters; and I expressed a hope that the Ottoman Government in making proposals would do so in a large and comprehensive spirit, so as to conciliate the sympathies and support of other European Powers.

He promised me at once to recommend to his Government the preparation of preliminary proposals.

I asked the Pasha if there was any truth in the rumour of his being named the Turkish member of the Commission. He said that up to the present he had heard nothing as to the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 83.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 12. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 26, 1878.*

SHORTLY after the visit of Carathéodory Pasha on Saturday, Parnes Effendi, one of the European legal advisers to the Porte, called on me. He now forms one of the staff of Carathéodory Pasha, having been at Berlin with the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, and he is, I believe, known to Lord Beaconsfield and your Lordship. I have myself been acquainted with him for a good many years, and having met him in the morning had some conversation with him respecting the "Loi des Vilayets."

He brought with him a "Projet," drawn up some time ago by himself and M. Tarin, the French Counsel of the Porte, of an organization to be applied generally to all the provinces of the Empire.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of this document.

I will not trouble your Lordship with any comments of mine on the scheme propounded in it, though it seems to me in many respects objectionable and inferior to the "Loi des Vilayets."

But, on inquiring to-day from Parnes Effendi his opinion whether the Porte would propose this system for Eastern Roumelia, he stated his belief that the Porte would not go even to this extent.

I then discussed with him the meaning of the phrase "autonomie administrative."

He replied that it gave to the provinces rights of administration, *e.g.*, the collection of taxes fixed for them by fundamental laws of the Empire, and a power of legislation limited to Règlements Administratifs.

I pointed out to him that the European Commission to my mind was charged by the Treaty with the preparation of a system for Eastern Roumelia far more extensive than he seemed to admit.

I quoted to him Lord Beaconsfield's words at the sitting of the 22nd June, 1878, when he said:—

"It remains established in fact by unanimous assent that the Sultan, as a member of the political body of Europe, is to enjoy a position which shall secure to him the respect of his sovereign rights."

But outside this the Congress clearly intended to give the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia very wide privileges.

By Article XIII of the Treaty the province was placed under the direct political and military rule of the Sultan, "dans des conditions d'autonomie administrative."

By Article XVIII the Commission was to determine "les pouvoirs et les attributions du Gouverneur-Général ainsi que le régime administratif, judiciaire et financier de la province."

But if this varied "régime" was at any time to be changed or modified, in detail at all events, by whom was the change to be effected? Was it possible, for instance, to establish as a permanency any "régime financier?" But, more, the very competency of the future Assemblies to modify the financial system of the province had been certainly, though perhaps indirectly, admitted by the Congress.

During the sitting of the 25th June, the question arose of the maintenance in Eastern Roumelia of the Treaties affecting commerce, navigation, and the regulations of transit.

"M. Waddington points out that it is not yet known what political system will be established in Eastern Roumelia, and that it is to be feared that a local Assembly might think themselves competent to modify Treaties concluded with the Powers. In order to avoid these misunderstandings, his Excellency would prefer that the words 'Eastern Roumelia' should be retained, and insists especially on the danger of the intervention of the local Assemblies in matters relating to transit dues."

In the discussion which followed, Carathéodory limits himself to affirming "that no transit duty can be established on the territory of the Empire without the express authorization of the Sovereign;" but the Turkish Plenipotentiaries did not offer any opposition to the language of M. Waddington in other respects.

Parnes Effendi confessed that his view of the meaning of the intended "autonomie" had been changed by my remarks, and said he would be glad if a sound and reasonable system could be established.

I told him that the best solution of the difficulty would be the proposal by the Porte of a scheme, generously conceived, which could recommend itself rapidly to the other Powers, especially to those who were earnestly and seriously anxious for the restoration and stability of the Sultan's power on the wide basis of popular contentment.

I strongly pressed on him the necessity there is for the Porte to avoid any appearance of a wish to disguise under a new form a return to a state of things which has been by common consent set aside.

Turkey was either Constitutional or she was not.

If Constitutional, she could not object to the freedom of the inhabitants of

Eastern Roumelia, which would facilitate the introduction of similar institutions into other parts of the Empire.

If not Constitutional, the Powers would insist on their Commissioners providing the strongest guarantees for the people of that province against the exercise of the despotism of Constantinople.

Parnes Effendi answered that of course everything would have to be arranged at Constantinople.

To this view I entirely assented, but I informed him that I thought it expedient, in conversation with himself and with a statesman so enlightened as Caratliéodory Pasha, to enlist if possible their influence to guide the Porte in the direction I pointed out.

Parnes Effendi expressed his sympathy with my views, and promised to speak to the Pasha in this sense, and to see me again.

I omitted to mention in my despatch No. 9 of the 24th instant, an observation made by Caratliéodory Pasha to the effect that your Lordship had, on more than one occasion, alluded to the British Colonial institutions as models, or, at all events, as illustrations of the future system for Eastern Roumelia.

I should be glad to learn from your Lordship whether I may bear in mind this illustration, always recollecting the difference between a distant possession and a province geographically adjacent to the capital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Projet de Loi Constitutive instituant les bases de l'Organisation Administrative, Judiciaire, Financière et Militaire de l'Empire.

I.—Organisation Administrative.

(A.)—*Division et Administration du Vilayet.*

Le vilayet (province) est divisé en sandjaks (arrondissements).

Le sandjak est divisé en nahiés (cantons).

Le nahié se compose d'un certain nombre de communes.

Les villes de plus de 10,000 habitants formeront un nahié district.

Le vilayet est administré par un Vali nommé par le Sultan.

Le Vali devra appartenir à la croyance de la majorité de la population du vilayet.

Il aura auprès de lui un Mustèchar également nommé par le Sultan.

Dans les vilayets où le Vali sera Musulman, son Mustèchar sera Chrétien et *vice versâ*.

Les autres fonctionnaires attachés à l'administration du vilayet seront nommés par le Vali sur la proposition du Consul-Général du vilayet.

Le pouvoir exécutif appartiendra exclusivement au Vali, qui l'exercera dans toute l'étendue du vilayet au moyen des Mutessarifs, des Caïmacams et des Moukhtars.

Il représente l'autorité suprême, et veille à l'exécution des lois de l'Empire.

Le Conseil-Général du vilayet se composera de deux Délégués de chaque sandjak lesquels seront élus par le Conseil du sandjak.

Le Conseil-Général a pour attributions, la discussion, la délibération, et la décision de toutes les affaires administratives, sans qu'il puisse s'immiscer dans l'exercice du pouvoir judiciaire, ou du pouvoir exécutif.

Le Vali sera tenu d'en référer au Conseil-Général pour toute mesure administrative qui ne consisterait pas dans la mise en exécution pure et simple d'une disposition légale ou réglementaire.

En cas de conflit entre le Vali et le Conseil-Général il en sera référé au Conseil des Conflits Administratifs siégeant à Constantinople, et dont il sera parlé ci-après.

Le Sandjak est administré par un Mutessarif agissant sous l'autorité du Vali.

Il est nommé par le Sultan.

Il appartiendra à la croyance de la majorité de la population du Sandjak.

Il sera assisté d'un Mouavin également nommé par le Sultan.

Si le Mutessarif est Musulman le Mouavin sera Chrétien et *vice versâ*.

Les autres fonctionnaires du Sandjak seront nommés par le Mutessarif sur la proposition du Conseil du Sandjak.

Le Mutessarif exerce le pouvoir exécutif sous l'autorité du Vali, dans les mêmes conditions que le Vali lui-même, mais dans les limites du Sandjak.

Le Conseil du Sandjak se compose d'un délégué de chaque Nahié désigné par le Conseil du Nahié.

Ses attributions seront dans la limite des intérêts locaux du Sandjak les mêmes que celles du Conseil-Général.

En cas de conflit entre le Mutessarif et le Conseil du Sandjak il en sera référé au Vali et au Conseil-Général du vilayet conjointement.

Le Nahié est administré sous l'autorité du Mutessarif par un Caïmacam nommé par le Vali sur la proposition du Conseil-Général.

Ses attributions sont les mêmes que celles du Mutessarif dans les limites de sa circonscription.

Le Conseil du Nahié se compose de cinq membres librement élus par les habitants mâles du Nahié âgés de 21 ans, jouissant de leur droits civils, et payant une contribution directe de 50 piastres par an.

Le Conseil remplit près du Caïmacam les mêmes fonctions que le Conseil du Sandjak près du Mutessarif.

En cas de conflit entre le Conseil du Nahié et le Caïmacam il en sera référé au Mutessarif et au Conseil du sandjak conjointement.

La commune est administrée par un Moukhtar (maire) nommé par le Vali, pris au sein du Conseil Municipal, et appartenant à la croyance de la majorité du Conseil.

Les attributions de Maire consistent à exercer la police dans la commune, à exécuter les ordres de l'autorité exécutif qui lui seront transmis par le Caïmacam, et à assurer l'éxécution des délibérations du Conseil Municipal prises dans la limite de ses attributions.

Le Conseil Municipal se compose d'un membre par 100 habitants, sans toutefois que le nombre des Conseillers Municipaux puisse exéder vingt. Il sera librement élu par les habitants de la commune.

Le Conseil Municipal garde les biens de la commune, fixe son budjet, en règle l'emploi et répartit entre les habitants les contributions directes sujettes à repartition. Il est exclusivement chargé de pourvoir à la perception des impôts au moyen de percepteurs, qu'il nommera lui-même. Enfin le Conseil Municipal exerce les fonctions de Juge de Paix dans les limites fixées par les lois judiciaires.

En cas de conflit entre le Maire et le Conseil Municipal il en sera référé au Caïmacam et au Conseil du Nahié conjointement.

L'ordre public est assuré dans toute l'étendue du vilayet au moyen d'une gendarmerie et d'une police locale recrutées dans le pays parmi les habitants indistinctement, et placées sous les ordres directs de l'autorité exécutive dans chaque localité.

Les forces militaires seront placées sous l'autorité des Commandants militaires qui ne pourront dans aucun cas s'immiscer dans l'administration du vilayet.

Le Vali, assisté du Conseil-Général aura seul le droit de requérir l'intervention de la force armée en cas de troubles à l'intérieur et d'insuffisance de la police locale.

Dans les vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe et dans les îles les actes administratifs et judiciaires seront faits à la fois dans la langue Turque et dans la langue en usage chez la majorité de la population Chrétienne.

Une Commission de législation administrative sera instituée dans la capitale à l'effet d'élaborer un règlement administratif développant et réglant dans leurs détails les principes qui viennent d'être posés.

(B.)—*Instruction Publique.*

L'enseignement publique est libre dans tout l'Empire.

Il est permis à toute communauté et à tout individu jouissant de ses droits civils d'établir des écoles pour l'enseignement primaire et supérieur et de faire des cours publics sous la surveillance de l'autorité au point de vue des bonnes mœurs, de l'ordre public, et du respect des lois de l'Etat.

Cette surveillance sera exercée dans chaque vilayet par le Vali et le Conseil-Général conjointement.

Tous les Ottomans sans distinction de race et de religion sont également admissibles dans les cadres civiles et militaires du Gouvernement Impérial.

II.—Organisation Judiciare.

(A.)—*Législation.*

Les lois Mizamies (Civil, Criminel &c.) Codes suivants :—

1. Code Civil. Adoption du Code Civil Français, modifié suivant les coûtumes du pays.

2. Code de Procédure Civil. A élaborer sur la base du Code de Procéduré Commerciale actuel, en le complétant.

3. Code de Commerce. Code de Commerce actuel continué.

4. Code de Procédure Commerciale. Code actuel complété.

5. Code Pénal. Code Actuel.

6. Code d'Instruction Criminelle à élaborer en s'inspirant des législations Françaises et Anglaises.

(B.)—*Tribunaux.*

Institution de Tribunaux Mizamies (Civiles, Commérciaux, Criminels et Correctionels) dont la compétence s'étendra à toutes les contestations mobilières ou immobilières entre les sujets Ottomans indistinctement, à l'exception de questions concernant le mariage, et en general l'état civil des personnes, lesquelles questions seront déférées pour les Musulmans aux Tribunaux de Cheriat, et pour les non-Musulmans aux Tribunaux des communautés.

Il sera établi dans chaque vilayet un nombre de Tribunaux Mizamies de chaque degré suffisant pour assurer l'administration de la justice, savoir :—

1. Tribunaux de Paix dont les décisions au-delà d'une certaine somme seront appellables devant les Tribunaux de Première Instance.

2. Tribunaux de Première Instance, dont les décisions au-delà d'une certaine somme seront appellables à la Cour d'Appel du vilayet.

3. Cour d'Appel unique pour chaque vilayet appellée à connaître en dernier ressort des jugements rendus par les Tribunaux de Première Instance.

4. Institution d'une Cour de Cassation unique à Constantinople a laquelle puissent être déférés les jugements des Cours d'Appel, mais seulement pour violation ou fausse application de la loi.

Le recours en Cassation ne suspendra l'exécution des arrêts qu'en matière criminelle.

Les Juges seront inamovibles; ils devront être choisis parmi les hommes capables, et l'on aura recours en cas de besoin, et à titre transitoire, au concours des étrangers.

Un Ministre Public sera attaché aux Tribunaux de Première Instance et d'Appel.

Les audiences seront publiques.

La défense sera libre. Le témoignage (dans le cas où il est permis par la loi) sera reçu sous sermont des Musulmans et des non-Musulmans.

Les instances devant les Tribunaux seront introduites directement par les justiciables, sans l'intermédiaire d'aucune administration.

L'exécution des jugements et des arrêts sera dévolue aux Tribunaux et aux Cours.

Les contestations entre l'Etat, les administrations publiques, et les particuliers, seront du ressort des Tribunaux Nizamiés.

Une Commission de Législation Judiciaire sera instituée dans la capitale, à l'effet de développer les principes qui viennent d'être posées, et d'en régler les détails d'application.

III.—Organisation Financiere.

Le régime des impôts, directs et indirects, en Turquie, sera réformé.

Jusqu'à l'accomplissement de cette réforme, les seuls impôts pouvant être légalement perçus seront les suivants, savoir : contributions directes, le Veroghi et la jedeune ; superpositions indirectes, la dîme, taxe sur le bétail, douanes spiritueux, sels, et tabacs, &c.

Aucun autre impôt, direct ou indirect, ne pourra être établi qu'en vertu d'une loi.

La perception de tous les impôts, et la répartition des impôts directs, appartiennent exclusivement aux Conseils Municipaux des communes.

Le produit total des impôts, directs ou indirects, de chaque vilayet, sera affecté dans les proportions à déterminer aux besoins généraux de l'Etat et aux besoins généraux du vilayet.

Une Commission de Législation Financiere sera constituée dans la capitale, à l'effet d'élaborer une loi établissant le nouveau régime des impôts directs et indirects.

Cette Commission sera également chargée d'élaborer un projet de règlement de la dette publique intérieure et extérieure, et de l'extinction ou de la conversion de la dette flottante.

IV.—Organisation Militaire.

Tous les Ottomans sans distinction sont astreints au service militaire suivant la loi du recrutement.

Une Commission Législative pour la constitution de la force publique élaborera les lois de recrutement, d'exemption, et de rachat du service militaire, applicables au même degré et au même titre à tous les Ottomans.

V.—Dispositions Générales.

(A.)—*Conseil Supérieur des Conflits.*

Il sera institué dans la capitale un Conseil Supérieur auquel seront réferés tous les conflits soulevés entre le Vali et le Conseil-Général, et qui statuera souverainement sur les dits conflits.

Ce Conseil aura tout pouvoir de faire des enquêtes locales soit par l'organe d'un de ses membres délégué à cet effet, soit par tout autre moyen d'instruction.

Le Conseil Supérieur des Conflits connaitra également des plaintes qui lui seront adressées sous forme de pétition soit par des magistrats de fonctionnaires à l'égard de leur supérieurs, soit par des particuliers à l'égard des fonctionnaires.

Dans le cas où la plainte sera reconnue fondée par le Conseil, elle sera renvoyée à l'administration intéressée pour qu'il soit fait droit.

Le Conseil Supérieur des Conflits sera composé d'un délégué de chaque vilayet désigné par le Conseil-Général et d'un nombre égal de fonctionnaires nommés par le Sultan. Il sera présidé par le Président du Conseil d'Etat.

Toutes les décisions et résolutions du Conseil Supérieur des Conflits seront soumises à la sanction Impériale et rendus publiques.

(B.)—*Commission de Législation.*

Les quatre Commissions de Législation Administrative, Judiciaire, Financière, et Militaire, chargées d'élaborer les lois et règlements qui doivent être le développement des principes généraux proclamés par le present Acte seront composées chacune de cinq membres nommés par le Sultan et pris parmi les notabilités de chaque spécialité en recourant au besoin au concours de notabilités étrangères.

Les projets élaborés par ces Commissions devront être convertis en lois de l'Empire et mis à exécution au plus tard dans le cours d'une année.

No. 81.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 13. Most Confidential.)

Vienna, August 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I AGAIN saw Parnes Effendi last night. He told me that he had had further conversation with Caratheodory Pasha, and that his Excellency was of opinion that, if we solidly secure the political and military authority of the Sultan over the provinces, we may, outside this, give very free institutions. He said, however, that for important fundamental laws the consent of the Sultan would be necessary, but that this would never be refused. I replied that a reserve of this kind existed in all our Colonial Constitutions, and I conceive that a rule might easily be made by which a law became permanently valid only if not vetoed within a certain period by the Sultan.

Parnes Effendi then went on to say that the Pasha did not consider the people of Eastern Roumelia ready for a Parliament, and that the Commission must for some time be the legislative body. I answered that the period for which it was to act was limited to three months. He said that it was impossible to do anything in that short time, and that the Powers must prolong its existence. I thought, perhaps, this might be done for a month or two; but he suggested that it should be prolonged for years, like the Danubian Commission. This I did not think feasible. It would, in fact, be instituting a Commission of Control. He said, however, that the laws in Roumelia must be entirely reconstructed.

With regard to finance, he suggested that a fixed sum should be paid to the Porte, but saw the validity of an objection I made in favour of the Central Government, as provision must be devised for extraordinary taxation in case of war or unforeseen emergencies.

As Caratheodory Pasha is likely to be called very shortly to high functions, I am glad to hear, though in an unofficial form, that his views are of a comprehensive character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 85.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 14.)
Vienna, August 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I THIS morning had an interview with Count Andrassy, first alone and afterwards with Lord Donoughmore.

Count Andrassy informed me that he had appointed M. Kallai Commissioner for Austria, and would instruct him as far as possible to act with me.

He foresees great difficulties in devising the institutions to be given to Eastern Roumelia, but he felt that Her Majesty's Government and his own were animated with a common object, viz., the firm establishment of the political and military authority of the Sultan side by side with free Constitutional rights for the people.

He was in hopes that the Commission might elaborate a system which might be adopted by Turkey for the remainder of her European provinces.

His Excellency was afraid M. Kallai would not be ready to leave for some time, and wished me to stay at Vienna till he was ready.

I, however, submitted to his Excellency that it was desirable I should arrive at Constantinople as early as possible, and that the Commission should begin its proceedings with the least possible delay.

Amongst its other duties the Commission has to administer the finances of the province, and no time should be lost in beginning this task.

His Excellency concurred in this view, and said he would instruct M. Kallai to call upon me at Pesth, to which place I propose to go to-morrow.

His Excellency is also of opinion that the Commission should carry on its labours at Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 86.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 696.)
Paris, September 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day addressed a note to the French Government in the terms of your Lordship's despatch No. 549 of 29th August, and I have requested M. Waddington to inform me whether it is the view of the French Government that, in case the nine months of Russian occupation of Bulgaria should elapse before any decision has been taken by the Commission, the *ad interim* Government will be exercised by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 87.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 156, M. de Giers telegraphs that no answer can be given to representation in favour of Hadji Arif Aga until the decision of the Commander-in-chief is known. He will certainly act in a spirit of justice and impartiality.

I have urged Baron Ostensacken to press for more satisfactory reply.

I fear Russia will argue that XXVIIth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano excludes Turks from amnesty.

No. 88.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 816.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 6, 1878.*

BILIOTTI telegraphed yesterday that 2,000 Laz emigrants have arrived; 1,000 more expected. No rations are issued to them, there being no money in Government Chest. Great dissatisfaction exists among them.

No. 89.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 6, 1878, 2·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 814, a Commission will shortly be sent out for settlement of boundary between Turkey and Persia.

No. 90.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 6, 1878, 3·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 811, can you send me names and number of the other members of proposed Council on Finances, in which English and French financiers are to serve; also the order of reference or copy of powers to be given to them?

The proposal of the Porte, communicated by Musurus Pasha, is for a Superior Council of State, charged with the reorganization of the finances and the preparation of proposals for the settlement of questions relating to the internal and foreign debt, for which the services of an English and a French financier are requested.

No. 91.

Consul Sir C. Scbright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 42. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, September 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of Report received by last mail from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, conveying information which had reached him relative to the state of matters at Prevesa and in Epirus generally, which, I regret to find, do not give promise of durable tranquillity in that province.

2. Two powerful Turkish iron-clads, probably those alluded to in Mr. Onofrio's despatch, passed up channel yesterday forenoon, but with what destination we had no means of finding out.

3. I learn from a private source that Colonel Grivas has been summoned from his

residence in the vicinity of Santa Maura to Agrinion, where the strength of the Greek "Army of Acarnania" is at present concentrated.

This move is connected with rumours of a change of Ministry, which is by some considered imminent, and where Colonel Grivas would come in as Minister of War.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, August* 31, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 72 and 73, Political, I have the honour to report that about sixty Turkish families arrived at Prevesa, together with the troops from Bosnia and Herzegovina alluded to in said despatches. Some 200 Circassians also landed at Prevesa some days ago, and were marched off to Janina a couple of days after.

2. The two Turkish men-of-war alluded to in my preceding despatch are still riding at anchor off Prevesa.

3. The agitation of the Albanians against annexation to Greece is gaining ground under the leadership, it is said, of Wessell Bey, an Albanian chieftain; and if all the reports emanating from a Greek semi-official source are to be credited at all, it would appear that the Turkish authorities in Epirus are aiding and abetting the agitation.

4. The annual levy of the "conscripts" for the "regular army" was proceeded with here on Sunday last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 92.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 698. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 6,* 1878.

I HAVE learnt from M. Desprez to-day, that Prince Hohenlohe communicated to M. Waddington, on the afternoon of the 4th instant, a confidential despatch from M. de Radowitz, enumerating certain points in the Treaty of Berlin which, it is alleged, had not been executed by the Porte, and requesting to know whether the French Government would not join with the other Great Powers in stating to the Porte, through the Representatives at Constantinople, either in an identic form, or at least simultaneously, that it (the Porte) was expected to take measures for putting an end to the difficulties thrown in the way of the execution of the Treaty, and to give to the competent authorities clear and precise instructions to that effect.

M. Desprez said that, without being aware of the precise answer which M. Waddington returned to the German Ambassador, he certainly believed that no official assent had been given at once.

M. Desprez was very careful to impress upon me that he could only speak unofficially and without full information, but I gathered from his language that the French Government could not well refuse to take some step in the sense demanded by the German Government, as M. Waddington had already, in August, addressed a Circular to the French Representatives to the effect that the Treaty of Berlin was now in force, and that all its clauses should be faithfully executed.

M. Desprez added that M. Waddington, before his departure for Deauville yesterday afternoon, addressed a telegram to the French Ambassador in London, apprising him of the despatch from M. de Radowitz, and requesting him to endeavour to ascertain what answer Her Majesty's Government intend to make to the German proposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 93.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received September 7.)

Sir, *Admiralty, September* 6, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a despatch from Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell respecting the murder of several Greeks in the neighbourhood of Malgara and Kadekoi.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

Sir, *"Agincourt," at Gallipoli, August* 21, 1878.

HAVING been informed, on very reliable authority, in fact, by a gentleman who saw the bodies, that several Greeks had been murdered in the vicinity of Malgara and Kadekoi, I considered it advisable to speak to the Governor of Gallipoli on the subject, and impress on him the necessity and expediency of doing all in his power to prevent the repetition of such acts on the part of the returning refugees.

2. No doubt these poor creatures have been exasperated beyond measure, returning to their homes to find their land in the hands of Greeks and Bulgarians, their children killed, and their houses burnt; but I impressed upon Reschad Pasha that great as the provocation had been, doing such things would only lead to reprisals, and give an excuse to the Russians not to evacuate Roumelia.

3. The Governor informed me that he would give orders that no armed refugees should be allowed to pass the lines of Bulair, and that, as far as lay in his power, the greatest vigilance should be exercised. He remarked, however, that if the Russians chose they could put a stop to these outrages of antagonistic races; but he believed, on the contrary, they rather encouraged them, quoting a case which I had already heard of that occurred at Sharkoi, when the Colonel of Cossacks stationed there had derided the relatives of eight murdered men who had been brought to him, and remarked, "You have murdered others, now it is your turn."

4. I have no doubt the cases I have mentioned will be reported in the papers, and the usual use made of and abuse be founded on them; but it must be remembered that these murders have been committed on the Turkish territory entirely in the hands of the Russians, and therefore the Turkish officials are helpless in the matter; and representations have not been made to the General in command at Sharkoi on this subject, solely because applications made to him on other subjects by his Excellency the Pasha in command here have always been entirely disregarded, and not so much as an acknowledgment has been received of a letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

No. 94.

Italian Government to General Menabrea.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by General Menabrea, September 7.)

(Télégraphique.) *Rome, le 6 Septembre,* 1878, 3·10 P.M.

LE Cabinet Allemand vient de proposer aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin d'adresser à Constantinople des notes identiques et simultanées demandant promptement l'exécution du Traité. Tâchez de savoir quelle réponse fera le Cabinet de St. James.

No. 95.

Mr. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, September 7, 1878.*

THE Turkish Ambassador here has written to me asking that Her Majesty's Consul at Resht may be authorized to protect Ottoman subjects in Ghilan, there being no Turkish Consul in that province.

No. 96.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 7, 1878.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Mr. Freeman yesterday:—

"Mahommedan resistance continues. Engagement fought on the 3rd at Mokra, four hours from this; insurgents dispersed. Mahommedan conspiracy in this town discovered yesterday, and arrests effected. Mahommedan insurgents from Herzegovina said to have retired towards Taslidza."

No. 97.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 221.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 7, 1878.*

CARATHÉODORY PASHA, having spoken to me of the strong resistance that the Austrians are sure to meet with in the territory between Montenegro and Servia if they enter it without an understanding with the Porte, I pointed out that this would cause a very serious danger for Turkey.

If the Austrians once move towards Novi-Bazar, they will not allow themselves to be stopped; but should they find resistance on the direct route for it great, there is no security against their closing routes through Servia and Montenegro with the consent of those Principalities which are already expressing their readiness to co-operate with them.

This would entail a change in Austrian policy fatal to Turkey, and I am convinced that danger is not imaginary.

Carathéodory said that [danger ?] had not previously struck him, but he was impressed with its gravity, and would at once telegraph to point out this danger to his Government.

If Porte would be satisfied with statement in the Convention for respecting the Sovereign rights of the Sultan without designating the occupation as provisional, it might probably be at once concluded; but otherwise, as I have told Carathéodory, it would, I think, be simpler and better that a Convention, only applying to the district of which Austria is not administrator, should be agreed upon. Personally he appeared of my opinion, but he hesitates about suggesting this course to his Government.

No. 98.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

Foreign Office, September 7, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 48 of the 5th instant, I was informed at the Foreign Office in Paris that France had not signified her consent to proposed collective note to the Porte.

No. 99.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to Mr. Plunket's telegram No. 157 of the 5th instant, repeated to your Excellency this afternoon, what course does the Austrian Government propose to take in regard to the date of meeting of the Commission for defining the Montenegrin frontier, and in regard to the question whether one Commission or two shall be appointed to define the boundaries of Bulgaria and of Eastern Roumelia?

No. 100.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 7, 1878, 3·25 P.M.*

COLONEL HOME, Royal Engineers, is appointed Her Majesty's Commissioner for delimitation of Bulgaria.*

He will leave London on Monday or Tuesday for Constantinople viâ Trieste. Three officers will accompany or follow him on his Staff. Lieutenant Chermside, who will also be on his Staff, should report himself to him on his arrival.

If the Commission should meet before Colonel Home's arrival, Lieutenant Chermside should, if necessary, represent Colonel Home.

No. 101.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

(No. 419.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 7, 1878.*

YOU acquainted me by your telegram No. 48 of the 5th instant that the consent of the French, Austrian, and Russian Governments had been signified to the proposed collective note of advice to the Porte.

I was, however, informed at the French Foreign Office, during my recent visit to Paris, that the French Government had not as yet consented to this proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 102.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

(No. 420A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 7, 1878.*

THE German Chargé d'Affaires spoke to me to-day with reference to the note from Prince Bismarck proposing an identic communication from the Powers to the Porte with regard to the execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, which he had communicated on the 5th instant. He stated that as the note was communicated confidentially and not officially he should prefer to receive the answer of Her Majesty Government verbally.

I said that it appeared to me that this proposal was made too soon; that the Treaty of Berlin had not been ratified a month when Prince Bismarck's despatch was written, and that it was too early to determine that the Porte was failing to carry out its obligations. The Government of Turkey was naturally a weak one, was ruined by war, and was unable to act with the despatch and promptitude which a more advanced and wealthier Government might show. Moreover, its authority in the distant provinces of the Empire, which was always feeble, had been completely paralyzed by recent events. On these grounds, Her Majesty's Government did not think that the time could in fairness be said to have arrived for remonstrating with the Porte, still less for doing so in the stringent form of an identic note.

But beyond this, I said, even if the time for remonstrance had come (which I thought was not the case) the form proposed was open to many objections. It

* 1st paragraph sent to Her Majesty's Embassies.

comprehended, in one form of complaint, subjects which required to be dealt with in different ways. In respect to Montenegro and Bosnia, if the fact were proved that the Porte was throwing difficulties in the way of the execution of the Treaty, a very sufficient ground for complaint would be established, but the statement appeared to me to stand in much need of proof. According to the information which had reached Her Majesty's Government, the Porte had taken no action in Bosnia other than was favourable to Austrian views, and although the delay in coming to an arrangement with Austria was much to be regretted, and was very contrary to the advice of England, it could hardly be said to be a breach of the Treaty.

In respect to Montenegro Her Majesty's Government had at present before it only the letter forwarded by Prince Nicholas to the German Government, and it would not, in their opinion, become Europe to act as it were judicially, and condemn the Porte, till the statement of the Porte itself had been heard. These, however, were the only matters in which, even if the facts were proved and the delay allowed had been sufficiently long, a case for remonstrance could be sustained.

The complaint against Turkey that it had not evacuated Varna and Batoum might be to some extent true, though it was notorious that very considerable steps towards the evacuation had taken place. But it was, at least, equally true that Russia had not evacuated San Stefano and Erzeroum; and if an identic note were to be addressed to Turkey about the two former places, it would be necessary also to address an identic note to Russia about the two latter.

With respect to Greece it was impossible to say that the Porte had failed to observe the Treaty, for under the Treaty it had entered into no obligations upon that subject. The Treaty itself laid down very distinctly the course which the Powers were disposed to follow in case Greece and the Porte should be unable to come to an agreement, and it would hardly be respectful to the Treaty to substitute another and totally different course of action for the mediation indicated there.

Baron de Brincken promised to communicate my observations to his Government, but did not himself go far into the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 103.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 316A.)
Foreign Office, September 7, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT, for your information, a copy of a despatch to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin,* reporting the language which I held to-day to the German Chargé d'Affaires in regard to the proposal of his Government for an identic representation to the Porte in regard to the non-execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I saw the Italian Chargé d'Affaires this afternoon, and informed him of the sense in which I had spoken to Baron Brincken.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 104.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 1077.)
Therapia, August 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell to Admiral Sir G. Hornby, by which it would appear that the Russians are determined, upon leaving the country they have occupied, to destroy as much of the property of the Mussulman population as possible. This wanton devastation would scarcely appear to be consistent with the usages of war amongst civilized nations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* No. 102.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

"*Agincourt*," *at Gallipoli, August 28, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, subsequently to dispatching my letter of the 21st August, reliable information has reached me to the effect that the Russian troops in the districts of Malgara and Sharkoi have taken to burning and destroying the country before leaving for the coast; and what is especially to be deplored in these doings is their destruction of all the woods by fire, for wood is unusually scarce in this part of the country, and, consequently, such utter waste of the little there is will hereafter lead to great want and distress.

Captain Brine, of the "Invincible," further informs me that large fires can be seen from the Gulf of Xeros on all the neighbouring hills, so there is little reason to doubt the truth of these reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

No. 105.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 1078.)
Therapia, August 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, relating to Hadji Shaban and Hadji Arif Aghas, who are waiting their trial at Philippopolis. I understand that appeals have been made in their favour to Prince Labanoff and to General Todleben, but without success. The latter, I am informed, went so far as to say that he would rather resign his command than that these two Mussulman notables should be spared.

The facts connected with their imprisonment are mentioned in previous despatches from Mr. Calvert. Having returned to their native town, to reclaim their property, relying upon the assurances of the Russian authorities that those who did so should not be molested, they have been seized, thrown into the criminals' dungeon, and will probably be executed. I believe that the Bulgarians have accused them to the Russians of having taken part in organizing a body of Bashi-Bazouks that committed outrages on Christian villages.

On the other hand, the Porte has duly carried out the amnesty, and released and sent back to their homes the Bulgarians who had been arrested for crimes against Mussulmans.

I have not yet heard that any punishment has been inflicted upon the authors of the massacres described in the Report of the Rhodope Commission. It is thus that justice is now dispensed in Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 28, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the public trial of Hadji Arif Agha and Hadji Shaban Agha, which was to have begun on the 24th instant, has been deferred to Monday, the 2nd September, in consequence, I understand, of the intercession of my Austrian colleague, and in order to enable them to secure the services of a lawyer from Constantinople.

A son of Hadji Shaban Agha, who is leaving for Constantinople to-day, and to whom I will entrust this despatch, will show your Excellency the "acte d'accusation" against the two Aghas, which, as I have already informed your Excellency, contains no more specific charge against the accused than that they incited their retainers and the Turkish population generally to massacre Bulgarian peasants.

I am told that, not being able to obtain any direct evidence of these charges in

the preliminary secret examination of witnesses which has taken place, the Russian examiners made a point of asking each witness what was his personal opinion of the accused.

I am also informed by a trustworthy person that agents have been going round to the Bulgarian villages endeavouring to incite the people to bring fresh charges against the two Aghas.

My French colleague heard yesterday from a gentlemen who associates with the officers of Prince Dondoukoff's suite that the Prince is firmly resolved to have both Arif Agha and Shaban Agha executed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 106.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 219.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 7, 1878.*

FRENCH Chargé d'Affaires has received instructions to invite Austrian Government to join in a collective action at Constantinople to press on the Porte the prompt execution of the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin. To my question, as to what decisions were referred to, he could not give me any information.

No. 107.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 7, 1878.*

BARON CALLAY, the Austro-Hungarian Commissioner for East Roumelia, left Vienna yesterday, and expects to reach Constantinople on the 12th.

No. 108.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 817.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 7, 1878.*

MEHEMET ALI PASHA has been murdered at Jacova by Albanian insurgents. Particulars wanting.

No. 109.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 818.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 7, 1878.*

INSTRUCTIONS have, I believe, been sent to Alexander Pasha to accept Convention as offered by Count Andrassy if he cannot obtain modifications.

No. 110.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *September 7, 1878.*

NO Commissioner here but Italian, who is ready [?]. I saw Austrian Ambassador last night. He desires Austria to work cordially with us. He is strongly of opinion, with Sir H. Layard and myself, that Commission should sit at Philippopolis. Russian, and, perhaps, Italian, may wish for Constantinople. Have you sounded other Governments on this point? Sir H. Layard says French are likely to go with us. He and

Austrian Ambassador [?] concur generally in my views. I answered you privately from Buda-Pesth.

No. 111.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *September 7, 1878.*

WITH Ambassador's approval Assistant Commissioner will at my request proceed to Philippopolis. The object of his journey is threefold, namely, to obtain information, to treat question of domicile of Commission as settled, and to show that we are ready to begin.

Russians it is said are giving out that Commission is to meet only on 2nd October, and at Constantinople.

On Monday I call on Grand Vizier, with Ambassador and Assistant Commissioner, and I shall leave his Highness a letter announcing my arrival. Before Assistant Commissioner leaves early next week I should be glad to have your approval of his mission.

Rustom Pasha will probably be Governor-General, and Alexander Pasha Commissioner; latter not certain.

Ambassador desires Mr. Calvert to assist Lord Donoughmore, and will send for Mr. George Blunt to act as interpreter to me.

No. 112.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *September 8, 1878.*

IT would be well if officers of Delimitation Commission were instructed to furnish me with information, especially as to population of districts they visit, and proportionate numbers of races and religions, also as to means taken by Russians to levy tax.

No. 113.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 8, 1878.*

I CALLED on M. de Bülow yesterday evening on receiving your Lordship's telegram pointing out to his Excellency the discrepancy between your Lordship's information, derived from the Paris Foreign Office, and that furnished to me by M. Radowitz, and requested him to enable me to explain it.

His Excellency said that he had just returned, and had had only time to go quickly over the last information received. He said French Minister for Foreign Affairs had spoken to German Ambassador at Paris in a sense favourable to the German proposal of 2nd instant, but that he could not exactly recollect the terms. I had, however, correctly reported that the French Government, as well as that of Austria and Russia, were of one mind in this matter. He would write me on the subject to-morrow.

No. 114.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 133.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 24, 1878.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram, bearing yesterday's date, I informed M. Ristic of Mehemed Ali Pasha's appointment as Commissioner for the delimitation of the new Turco-Servian frontier, and of the very conciliatory message he had

requested Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to convey through me to the Servian Government.

M. Ristic replied that he viewed with much satisfaction the selection of Mehemed Ali Pasha as the Turkish Commissioner, for he had whilst at Berlin formed a very high estimate of his character, although as one of the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries he had so strongly opposed in the Congress the claims of Servia. His Excellency added that far from wishing to raise difficulties the Servian Government had the greatest possible interest in bringing all pending questions between them and the Ottoman Government to a speedy and mutually satisfactory settlement, and that Mehemed Ali Pasha might, therefore, rest assured they would do everything in their power to facilitate his mission. He, however, expressed serious apprehensions whether in the midst of the general disorganization, and the excitement prevailing on the confines of Servia, the Albanians would prove amenable to the authority of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 115.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 24, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this day's date, in which I informed your Lordship that Prince Milan had received answers from the Emperor of Austria, the Crown Prince of Germany, and the minor neighbouring States to his telegram, announcing the proclamation of the independence of Servia, I have to add that they were all couched in the most friendly and encouraging terms, the Crown Prince of Germany's reply having been the first to reach Belgrade on the very day of the ceremony. I have since learnt that his Highness has already received equally satisfactory communications from the Emperor of Russia and the President of the French Republic.

With a view to conform to the usages of international etiquette and to enter at once into regular diplomatic relations, Prince Milan and his Government would gladly have despatched on this occasion an extraordinary Mission to the various Great Powers; but they have been deterred from taking this step by the want of funds at their disposal. For similar reasons they will have to defer until after the meeting of the Skuptchina the appointment of Diplomatic Agents to represent them abroad. It is their present intention to confer the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary on these Agents, but wherever it is found possible, for the sake of economy, they will be accredited to more than one Court. The question, which is beset with difficulties, is, however, far from being definitively settled, owing to the expense of maintaining even a small Diplomatic Corps and to the dearth in this country of persons in any way fitted to hold such posts and willing to accept them.

On the one hand, the Roumanian Government have notified that they propose to confer the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary on their Agent here, M. Cafandji, who happens to be the Prince's uncle, and there is also every reason to believe that Count Andrassy intends raising Prince Wrede to the same position. On the other hand, to the great surprise and disappointment of the Servian Government, the Russian Consul-General here, M. Persiani, has been informed by telegraph that the Emperor has appointed him only Minister Resident. Finally, the French Government will find themselves compelled to name their Agent either Chargé d'Affaires or Minister Plenipotentiary, since the grade of Minister Resident is not recognized in their diplomatic service.

It is scarcely necessary for me to point out to your Lordship how very desirable it would be, for many and obvious reasons, if some common understanding could be come to between the Powers having accredited Agents at the Court of Prince Milan, as to the status to be conferred on them, in order that they should, if possible, all be of equal diplomatic rank.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 116.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 26, 1878.*

I HAD the honour of being received at a private audience by Prince Milan Obrenowitch and, subsequently, by Her Highness Princess Nathalie. In the course of the prolonged conversation which ensued, His Highness gave me every possible assurance that what he had most at heart was to conform scrupulously to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and to maintain the best relations with all the neighbouring States, in order to prove that Servia fully deserved taking that rank amongst independent nations which the Great Powers had been pleased to assign to her. He went on to review the completely isolated condition and the very backward state of the Principality in almost every respect, and to express the hope that Her Majesty's Government would not deny him the benefit of their friendly advice and assistance in the arduous task he had set himself of developing its internal resources and of throwing it open to foreign trade and capital.

His Highness' assurances, which I believe to be perfectly sincere, made all the more impression on me, since to so intelligent a mind it must be plain that, under present circumstances and, probably, for a long time to come, there is no other rational course left to Servia but to stifle as best she can her political aspirations, to avoid affording the slightest pretext for foreign intervention, and to devote all her energies to repair the exhaustion of her finances, and to endeavour to find the means of meeting the heavy additional burthens imposed upon her by her newly-acquired position as an independent State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 117.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 141.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 29, 1878.*

AS I had the honour to inform your Lordship this morning, by telegraph, there is every reason to believe that the Commission charged with the delimitation of the new frontier line between Servia and Turkey will shortly be assembled, General Leschianin, who has been appointed Servian Commissioner, being already at Vranja, with the officers detailed to assist him, and Brigadier-General Husni Pasha, who is to act for Mehemed Ali Pasha, at Pristina, in equally close proximity to the line of demarcation.

Prince Milan intends remaining in the neighbourhood at Nisch and Vranja during the whole of next month, and even prolonging his stay, if necessary, in order to enable General Leschianin the more easily to refer to him for instructions, should any differences of opinion arise between him and his Turkish colleague.

His Highness, who appears to have mastered the question in all its details, is under the impression that, since no mention is made in the Treaty of Berlin of an International Commission for the regulation of the Turco-Servian frontier, this matter will have to be settled by direct negotiations between Servia and Turkey on the basis of the agreement arrived at by the Congress and embodied in Article XXXVI of the Treaty. He considers that it ought to be satisfactorily disposed of without difficulty. He admits, however, that it will be necessary for both parties reciprocally to make some few concessions of an unimportant nature, seeing that the Austrian Staff maps are so far defective that at several points it would be physically impossible to trace a frontier line exactly as laid down on the authority of these maps at the Congress of Berlin. He adds that there are no strategical positions to be claimed by either side, and that whatever difficulties existed in consequence of the mixed nationality of the inhabitants in the border districts have all but completely disappeared within the last few months.

On the one hand, most of the Mahommedan population of the ceded territories has, according to the Prince's statement, gradually retired to other parts of the Turkish Empire, far removed from the frontier. When the Servians first occupied Nisch, it contained a Mussulman population of between 3,000 and 4,000, of whom over 1,000 consisted of refugees from Belgrade. These unfortunate people, never having received

from the Porte the indemnity which the Servian Government were compelled to pay in their behalf, on account of their forcible expulsion from their homes, had ever since existed at the expense of the local Ottoman authorities. They had, at last, come to look upon themselves as somewhat in the light of Government pensioners, and, as they were found to be in a state of abject destitution, the Servian authorities had no alternative left but to continue supplying them with rations at the public expense.

They have, however, all disappeared from Nisch, foreseeing, perhaps wisely, that the Servian Government would not submit much longer to be saddled with such a burthen, and that in the end they would find themselves better off among their own co-religionists.

The remainder of the Turkish population of Nisch has rapidly dwindled down to a few hundreds; but as these are for the major part wealthy and orderly people, possessed of property in the town and its neighbourhood, they are not likely to emigrate, greatly to the satisfaction of the Servian Government.

Very much the same process has been steadily going on in the other Turkish towns in the occupation of the Servians. At another point in the newly-acquired territories there is also a cluster of populous villages inhabited by Mussulman Albanians; but being both peaceable and industrious, and their head men having made themselves personally responsible for their good behaviour, they are looked upon by the Servian Government as a welcome addition to the population, and continue to live on the best possible terms with their Christian neighbours.

On the other hand, most of the Christian population in the adjoining Turkish districts, having made common cause with the Servians in the last war, have been led, through fear of retaliation on the part of the Ottoman authorities, to abandon of their own accord their former homes, and to withdraw into the interior of Servia, where waste lands are being allotted to them.

His Highness will at the same time inspect the Servian troops stationed in the annexed districts preparatory to effecting a considerable reduction in their numbers, on account of the extremely unsatisfactory condition of the national finances. This measure would have been resorted to much sooner had it not been for the threatening attitude assumed by a corps of about 5,000 Albanians assembled at Pristina under Chiefs acting on behalf of the Albanian League. The Prince assures me that within the last three months scarcely a day has gone by without desultory attacks being made by small parties of these Albanians on the Servian advanced posts, which are thus kept in a perpetual state of alarm most harassing to the troops. In this way, during the month of June last, old style, no less than 300 casualities occurred among the Servian battalions on this particular duty. Fortunately, of late, the Albanians have been much less troublesome, although sentries in exposed positions are still occasionally picked off by them.

The continued presence of so large a body of armed and lawless desperadoes close to the Servian frontier must necessarily prove a constant source of danger, and it is therefore to be hoped that the Porte will hasten to take energetic measures to disperse them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 118.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 143.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 20, 1878.*

M. HALGOUET, a French Military Attaché belonging to the French Embassy at Constantinople, passed through here yesterday on his way back to his post. It seems that he was travelling in Bosnia, for the purpose of collecting information for his Government, when the insurrection broke out, and prevented him from prosecuting his journey beyond Serajevo, where he was detained twenty-six days. He was not in any way molested by the insurgents, and, on the approach of the Austrian army of occupation, he was allowed to ride over to their head-quarters, where he was very well received. He thus had the good fortune to witness the whole of the military operations which terminated in the capture of that important town.

The accounts of the severity of the fighting at Serajevo are, in his opinion, greatly exaggerated, the losses in killed on both sides being, as far as he was able to judge,

under 150. From a military point of view he also considers the defence to have been extremely feeble, whilst the attack was well planned and vigorously delivered.

He is very loud in his praises of the thorough organization and the discipline of the Austrian troops, whom he describes as being in excellent condition and spirits, and amply supplied with provisions and every requisite for a campaign. The insurgents opposed to them are, it is true, numerous, determined, and inured to every hardship and privation, but without efficient leaders or any kind of military organization. Scattered amongst them are a number of disbanded Nizams and Redifs, who take but a small share in the fighting, and who are for the most part ready to lay down their arms on the first favourable occasion.

He states that he had some conversation with General Philippovitch, the Commander-in-chief, who informed him that, pending the arrival of several fresh divisions which he was expecting, all operations would be suspended, as he had decided not to resume his advance until he should be able to dispose of such overwhelming forces that all further resistance would become practically impossible. I can add, for my part, that almost all the Austrian and Hungarian subjects in Servia liable to military service, whether in the Army, the Reserves, or the Hungarian Militia ("Honveds"), have been recalled to the colours, and that large reinforcements are daily passing before Belgrade on their way up the Save.

Finally, M. Halgouet described the Austrians, both officers and men, as perfectly exasperated against Prince Milan and his people, whom they openly accuse of being the real instigators of the resistance they have encountered, and of secretly furnishing the insurgents with the means of prolonging it. They therefore insist that the occupation of Servia by their forces will be found to be the only effectual way of quelling the insurrection.

The Hungarian papers, in particular, teem with most violent articles against Servia, and go so far as to demand her immediate annexation. In many instances the Austrian papers, although more moderate in tone, write much in the same strain, and indulge in all manner of accusations, which, to say the very least, it would be difficult to substantiate.

It is very possible, even probable, that in general the secret sympathies of the Servian people are rather on the side of the insurgents than on that of Austria, towards which they have decided antipathies. They would belie their past history if they were capable of being suddenly brought to view with complacency the utter collapse of all their long-cherished and ambitious schemes, and the success of a Power, such as Austria, from which politically they have much to fear and nothing to hope for, and which is gradually but firmly extending her sway over provinces they had come to look upon as their rightful inheritance, and encompassing them on nearly every side. There is, however, good reason to believe that, realizing how completely isolated and powerless they are, and the imminent danger they would incur of foreign intervention, were they to allow their feelings to get the better of their discretion, the Servian people have carefully held aloof from any active participation in the present Bosnian insurrection.

As to the Servian Government, there is not a man connected with it, from Prince Milan downwards, who does not appear to be fully alive to the difficulties and dangers of the situation in which the country finds itself placed, and persuaded that for some considerable time to come Servia must retire from the field of politics, and resign herself to the modest, but salutary, task of improving her internal condition. I would, perhaps, be inclined to attach but little weight to their often-repeated and most earnest assurances, were they not corroborated by evidence of a more convincing character.

Servia has but just emerged from two successive wars, the first of which ended so disastrously for her, that it was only with the greatest possible difficulty she could be induced by Russia, after the overthrow of the principal Turkish armies, to enter upon the second. These two campaigns have taxed her resources in men and money to the utmost, and left her finances, notwithstanding the large subsidies she obtained from Russia, in a truly deplorable condition. The country was so thoroughly exhausted by requisitions of all kinds for the support of the army in the field, that great distress would have ensued were it not for the abundant harvest with which it has been blessed this year. Moreover, the evident hopelessness of the struggle now going on in Bosnia against Austria and the fanatical character of its Mahommedan leaders would, apart from all other considerations, prove sufficient to deter Servia from supporting it.

This view is borne out by all the intelligence I have been able to obtain, and my

Austrian colleague, Prince Wrede, who is the one chiefly interested in the matter, and who has the best sources of information at his command, not only concurs in it, but assures me he has every reason to be perfectly satisfied with the attitude hitherto maintained by the Servian Government.

It is, nevertheless, just possible that Russian influences may be secretly at work, in conjunction with the Omladina and the handful of Bosnian, Herzegovinian, and Montenegrin agitators who have sought a temporary refuge in this country; but in any case their means of action must now be very limited.

In conclusion, I beg to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, the summary of an article published at the suggestion of M. Ristic in the official organ of the Government, the "Serbske Novine," of this date, for the purpose of proving how groundless are some of the charges brought against Servia in the Austro-Hungarian press.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Summary of an Article in the "Serbske Novine."

(Translation.)

THE "Serbske Novine" contains an article refuting all the accusations published in the Austro-Hungarian press, that Servia has participated and excited the insurgents in Bosnia to resist the Austrian occupation with arms in their hands.

The Austro-Hungarian press lays stress on the following circumstances:—

1. That on the Turkish dead, who have been searched on the battle-field, were found five-dinar pieces.

The answer to that is that Servia has no five-dinar pieces, but only one and two-dinar pieces. It is, however, possible that numbers of Servian silver coins are found in Bosnia, for the commercial intercourse between the two countries is considerable; but that is no proof that the Servian Government has sent money to the Bosnian insurgents.

2. That there are Servian field-guns in Bosnia, which the Austrians have found and captured from the insurgents.

It is known that Servia captured from the Turks 300 guns, but Servia lost at the same time in the first war 10 guns; these were given to the Bosnian battalions, and this accounts for the fact that the Austrians found Servian guns in Serajevo, on which there were the Servian arms and Servian inscriptions.

3. That two superior staff officers, who were made prisoners by the Austrian troops, are Servians.

All the superior Servian staff officers are at home, none being reported absent.

The article then goes on to observe that a new state of things has begun in Servia, and that there is no foundation for the calumnies levelled against Servia at a moment when she does nothing to hinder the occupation of Bosnia by Austria, as decided upon by the Congress.

No. 119.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 144.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 30, 1878.*

I APPREHEND some months must elapse before the Servian Government will be in a position to give effect to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin with regard to the Jews settled in this Principality, since it will be necessary to submit the question a second time to the approbation of the next ordinary Skuptchina, which has yet to be elected, and then to cause it to be finally voted by the General or Extraordinary Skuptchina, which has to be specially convoked when any change is made in the organic laws of the country. There is no doubt the Government are anxious to pass the necessary measures with the least possible delay, and, as the Jews here are not

looked upon with prejudice, but, on the contrary, are rather liked, they will not meet with any opposition from the national representatives.

There are not altogether above 1,000 Jews in Servia, most of whom are of Spanish extraction, and still speak to this day that language amongst themselves. They have long enjoyed perfect equality of political rights, many of them are in Government employment, and they have even obtained seats in the National Legislature. The only disability under which they have hitherto laboured is being compelled to reside in one of the four following towns: Belgrade, Semendria, Schabatz, and Pozjarevatz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 120.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 142. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, by a Decree of Prince Charles, of which inclosed is a copy, the Roumanian army has been placed on a peace footing, and the militia and reserves are being disbanded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Extract from "L'Orient."

MISE DE L'ARMÉE SUR LE PIED DE PAIX.—Le "Moniteur Officiel" publie le Décret suivant:—

Article 1. L'armée est mise sur le pied de paix à partir de 1/7 Août, 1878.

Art. 2. Tous les commandements et services de l'armée active sont supprimés.

Art. 3. Tous les commandants titulaires actuels de ces postes, ainsi que les officiers des différents États-Majors et des services spéciaux reprendront les fonctions qu'ils occupaient avant la mise de l'armée sur le pied de guerre.

Ceux des officiers dont les fonctions sont supprimées et que les ressources du budget ne permettent point de conserver, seront placés dans la position de disponibilité par suppression d'emploi, conformément à l'Article 8 de la Loi du 5 Juin, 1878, sur la position des officiers.

Art. 4. Notre Ministre Secrétaire d'Etat au Département de la Guerre, est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Donné à Sinaia, le 29 Juillet, 1878.

(Signé) CHARLES.

Le Ministre Secrétaire d'Etat au Département de la Guerre:
Général de Division,
(Signé) CERNAT.

No. 121.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 141. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August 20, 1878.*

THE inclosed telegram, which appears to have been sent to the Havas Agency at Paris on the 18th instant, and which has been reprinted at Bucharest, may help in indicating the objects M. Cogalniceano has in view in visiting some of the foreign Courts.

No doubt exists on the subject that both Prince Charles and his Ministers attach

Immense importance to the prompt establishment of regular diplomatic relations between this Court and the Powers of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 121.

Newspaper Extract.

L'AGENCE Havas de Paris a publié la dépêche suivante:—

"Un échange de vues a lieu actuellement entre le Cabinet Roumain et les divers Cabinets relativement aux modifications à apporter dans les rapports diplomatiques de la Roumanie avec les autres Puissances, modifications qui résultent de la nouvelle situation créée à la Roumanie par le Traité de Berlin. La Roumanie est décidée à se soumettre au jugement rendu par le Congrès; mais, par cela même qu'elle accepte les charges du Traité, elle se croit autorisée à en réclamer les bénéfices. Elle demande que son indépendance ne soit pas seulement nominale, mais que cette indépendance lui apporte tous les avantages résultant du changement qui vient d'être opéré dans son état civil au point de vue du droit international.

En conséquence elle tient: (1) à ce que les rapports entre elle et les Gouvernements étrangers soient établis sur le même *modus vivendi* que ceux des autres Etats indépendants; (2) que ses Représentants à l'étranger aient rang dans le corps diplomatique avec le titre de Ministres Plénipotentiaires.

Les négociations entamées sont en bonne voie et semblent devoir aboutir à une solution conforme aux aspirations et aux droits du peuple Roumain.

No. 122.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 146. Political.)
Bucharest, August 26, 1878.

My Lord,

IN consequence of some confidential communications which passed between the Governments of Prince Charles and Count Andrassy, it was fully believed here that the Austro-Hungarian Government would be the first to appoint a Minister at Bucharest, and that the other Great Powers would soon adopt the same course by giving to their Representatives similar diplomatic rank.

Considerable surprise was manifested, therefore, by members of the Government on learning that the Emperor of Russia had appointed his Agent here, Baron Stuart, to the rank of Minister Resident in Roumania, and that proper credentials to that effect were on their way from St. Petersburgh.

A day or two previous to this information reaching the Roumanian Government Baron Stuart had been instructed to present here a note, demanding, in stiff terms, the surrender of Bessarabia in compliance with the Treaty of Berlin.

The tone of that note is, I am assured, rather haughty, and whilst referring to the past relations between Russia and Roumania, and to their late differences on the subject of Bessarabia, it expresses a wish that the Government of this Principality should at last see the error of their recent course and give evidence of their amendment by promptly complying with the demands therein stated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 123.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 147. Political.)
Bucharest, August 26, 1878.

My Lord,

FROM several of my previous despatches your Lordship will have observed that the Roumanian Government attach immense importance to the boundary which will in future constitute the frontier between their country and the new Bulgaria.

I am constantly asked who the English Delegate for this Boundary Commission is likely to be, and how soon the labours of that body are to commence. It is also hoped here that as the new territory has been assigned to Roumania on very different grounds from those which have dictated the annexations to Servia and Montenegro, Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers friendly to this country will see that this matter will not be too long delayed, and that Roumania should be put in possession of the new territory as early as possible after Russia has been put into possession of the Bessarabian districts.

It has been pointed out to me that a prolonged Russian administration of that district may not be conducive to its tranquil enjoyment by its new masters, and that unless the new boundary is fixed with proper regard to the interests of Roumania, it may entail considerable difficulties to that country in future.

In connection with this last question, great regret is expressed here that Silistria has not been included in the new territory. Besides its strategical defensive value to Roumania, and the facility with which it might be turned for aggressive purposes against this country, it is alleged that it is one of the few eligible places for the construction of a bridge on the Danube connecting permanently this Principality with her new territory on the other side of that river.

From Silistria to Hirsova the swamps are said to be such on this side that the construction of a permanent bridge is considered both too expensive and too difficult, if not impossible, and it is therefore supposed that the communications of Roumania with the Dobrudscha will be much more hampered than would have been the case if Silistria had been included in the annexation.

I have told my Roumanian friends that on this question they must not entertain any hopes, as it is not at all likely that any Power should now come forward to propose modifications, whether important or not, in what has been stipulated in the Treaty of Berlin, all the Powers having one common object in desiring that all that has been agreed upon with so much labour and difficulty should be fully and promptly carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 124.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 148. Political.)
Bucharest, August , 1878.

My Lord,

THE question of the retrocession of Bessarabia will for some time longer continue to be a prominent one for the Government and the political parties of this country.

From what I hear an opinion has gained ground in England, and has also been accredited by Russian agents on the Continent, that Roumania will be a considerable gainer by the territorial exchange which has been sanctioned by the Congress of Berlin, and that on the whole her new acquisitions contain the elements of a very full compensation for the territorial loss imposed upon this Principality by the stern exigencies of her Imperial ally.

Without denying that the new province (especially if it should obtain a proper boundary) may in some distant future add to the strength and prosperity of this new State, it is my duty to report to your Lordship that the view generally taken at present at Bucharest as to the prospects of this addition, is not only not a sanguine, but even an unfavourable one.

It is alleged that the Dobrudscha includes a considerable portion of unproductive and malarious soil, that it is thinly populated by the heterogeneous inhabitants of different races and creeds, and that for this very reason, as well as on account of its being conterminous to an ambitious new Slav State in Bulgaria, it will require the constant presence of a Roumanian military force much larger than this country can afford.

It is further stated that it will continue to be exposed, equally with Eastern Roumelia, for some time to come to the working of Slav agitators among its Bulgarian inhabitants.

This danger is apprehended, not only from the new vassal State bearing that

name, but likewise from Ismail and other places on this side of the Danube which are passing under the sway of Russia.

From a commercial and economical point of view a very considerable outlay of capital will become necessary before the possession of the Dobrudscha, even with its recent addition to Mangalia—Silistria—can become productive. The railway line between Tchernavoda and Kustendjé is not likely, for many years to come, to count as a competitor for international traffic with the existing Rustchuk-Varna line, or with the projected railway junction between Hungary and Sofia across Servia, whilst for Roumanian trade it will necessitate the expense of a bridge across the Danube, and the construction of a line of junction with some of the existing railways on this side of that river, neither of which could be effected without adding considerably to the heavy funded liabilities which Roumania has contracted within the last ten years.

It is therefore highly probable that the acceptance of the new territory, and the mode of its future administration, will lead to some very hot discussions whenever the Chambers meet, though there can be no doubt that its incorporation with Roumania will be ultimately sanctioned.

The surrender of Bessarabia will have to precede that annexation, and the exigencies of Russia are so pressing with regard to it, and a discussion of this matter will be so inconvenient in the Chambers, that it is possible that its transfer may be carried out even before the Legislature meets again.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 125.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 9.)

(No. 152. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Herr von Braunschweig, who is attached to the German Consulate-General in Roumania, and who is now Acting Consul-General here during the absence of Baron von Alvensleben on leave, has received orders from the Berlin Foreign Office to proceed to Constantinople, and there to act provisionally on the European Commission, which is to meet in that capital under Articles XVIII and XIX of the Treaty of Berlin, for the purpose of organizing Eastern Roumelia.

Another gentleman has come to Bucharest from Berlin to take charge of the German Consulate-General here after M. Braunschweig leaves.

His selection has given rise to numerous comments here, as it is not quite clear in what rank or capacity M. Braunschweig is to be associated with the other Commissioners, but it is probable that when the labours of that most important body have taken shape or form, the Imperial Government of Germany will then send out a very different officer to take a part in its final decisions, whilst, in the meantime, should really this gentlemen be authorized to act provisionally on the European Commission, which some persons even doubt, his duties will be limited to reporting the proceedings to his Government, rather than to taking an active part in its proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

P.S.—I have found a safe means of sending copies of the above despatch to Sir A. Layard and to Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff.

W. A. W.

No. 126.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 9.)

(No. 153. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 2, 1878.

FOR many years this city has been the residence of patriotic Bulgarians, and there existed amongst them a small body of malcontents keeping up communications

with their own country. Most of these have gone home to co-operate with the Russians.

From the few who are left at Bucharest I am able occasionally to glean items of intelligence concerning Bulgaria, and I gather from what I hear that a regular Unionist party is being organized amongst the Bulgar inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia, and is countenanced and encouraged by the Russian authorities there.

These efforts will be chiefly directed to the formation of a permanent national party in favour of annexation with Bulgaria north of the Balkans; with that view a newspaper is even now published at Philippopolis called the "Maritza," and attempts will be no doubt made to preserve the ecclesiastical organization of the National Exarchat.

The Exarch is, I believe, to take up his residence at Tirnovo, and if the jurisdiction assigned to him by the Imperial Firman of the 8th Silhidje, 1296 (27th February, 1870), was to continue in force his spiritual authority would extend to many places situated in Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 127.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 9.)

(No. 155. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 2, 1878.

STRANGE as it may appear there can be no doubt about it that the Russian intrigues have recommenced in this Principality, although the recollection of the manner in which this country has been treated by its Imperial ally is vividly brought back by the tone of the last Russian note about Bessarabia delivered just ten days ago.

This symptom may, however, be ascribed quite as much to the restless activity of some interested Russian partizans here as to any immediate plan of action on behalf of the Imperial Cabinet.

It has appeared necessary to me to call your Lordship's attention to this tendency and to the mode adopted to keep up Russian sympathies in Roumania.

Those who have put themselves at the head of this reactionary movement start from the conviction that, however deep may have been the wound lately inflicted on Roumania by Russia, it will be for the advantage of both to obliterate its effects, and that common interests are sure to create favourable opportunities (perhaps at no very distant period) to make Prince Charles once more confide to the Czar's protection and promises.

In every direction the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh is making efforts to produce the impression that there is no finality in the arrangements concluded at Berlin, and to rally its adherents by the hopes of future benefits.

With that view and for some ulterior object Russia, whilst sending a rather harsh note here, has taken the initiative of conferring Representative rank on her Agent, and is suspected of making at the same time some friendly overtures to Prince Charles for the purpose of making him more tractable.

Her partizans point out at the same time to the apparent indifference of other Powers, they go on asserting that the attention of Great Britain is now chiefly absorbed by her Imperial interests in Asia, and they likewise endeavour to draw conclusions detrimental to Austrian influence here by complaining of the slowness with which Count Andrassy appears to be carrying out his intentions of accrediting a Diplomatic Representative of higher rank at a young Court so sensitive to such attentions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 128.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 470.)

Athens, August 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that a despatch addressed by M. Delyanni to the Greek Consul residing at Larissa, containing instructions for this gentleman to inform Mussulmans that, in case of Greece obtaining the Province of Thessaly, they would retain their places, and be better treated than hitherto, has come to the knowledge of the Turkish Government.

Orders have been sent to Photiades Bey to remonstrate against such proceedings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 129.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 471.)

Athens, August 31, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Greek Government has not as yet succeeded in obtaining an official copy of the Circular of the Porte, dated the 8th instant, addressed to the Great Powers, relative to the rectification of the Greek frontier, as recommended by the Congress of Berlin.

I understand that it is the intention of this Government to defer answering the Circular until the answers of the Great Powers shall have been made.

Meanwhile, an article has been published in the "Messager d'Athènes" of the 29th instant, copy inclosed, which I have heard on good authority sets forth the line of argument which will be made use of by the Government in endeavouring to refute the facts mentioned and the arguments contained in the Turkish Circular, and I have consequently thought it right to bring it under your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Extract from "Le Messager d'Athènes" of August 29, 1878.

LA NOTE CIRCULAIRE OTTOMANE. — Elle a enfin paru dans les journaux de Constantinople cette note depuis longtemps annoncée comme un événement capital, comme un document qui devait anéantir la déclaration de M. Delyanni au Congrès de Berlin. Ce qui nous a le plus frappé, c'est le ton aigre, presque provoquant, de la Chancellerie Turque, une irrévérence dédaigneuse pour la vérité historique chez un Ministre qui passe, non sans raison, pour appartenir à la vieille, c'est-à-dire à la bonne école diplomatique. A notre avis un peu moins d'empressement à démentir des faits notoires, constatés par des enquêtes et des documents authentiques, une certaine retenue envers les Plénipotentiaires qui ont développé au Congrès la déclaration de M. Delyanni auraient peut-être atténué la mauvaise impression que la note devait inévitablement produire sur l'opinion publique de l'Europe.

Les arguments de Safvet Pacha portent à faux en ce qui concerne les réserves des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans sur la rectification des frontières Helléniques. En signant, dans son ensemble, le Traité de Berlin, le Sultan a implicitement renoncé au bénéfice des réserves que ses Plénipotentiaires avaient faites lorsque le Congrès a été saisi de la question Hellénique. Le treizième Protocole du Congrès n'admet pas seulement la nécessité d'une rectification de frontières, mais il indique même, en termes calculés de manière à ne pas trop froisser la susceptibilité de la Porte, les territoires qui doivent être cédés à la Grèce. L'Article XXIV du Traité n'admet aucune restriction; il stipule que "dans le cas où la Sublime Porte et la Grèce ne parviendraient pas à s'entendre sur la rectification de frontières indiquée dans le treizième Protocole du Congrès, l'Allemagne, l'Autriche-Hongrie, la France, la Grande Bretagne, l'Italie, et la Russie, se réservent d'offrir leur médiation aux deux parties pour faciliter les négo-

ciations." Ainsi deux choses sont hors de toute discussion: l'admission, en principe, de la rectification de frontières et le mode indiqué pour faciliter les négociations entre la Grèce et la Turquie.

A l'invitation de la Grèce de nommer une Commission internationale pour procéder à la délimitation des nouvelles frontières, la Porte répond par une fin de non-recevoir absolue, et, comme si elle voulait mettre tous les torts de son côté, elle commence par donner un démenti à Lord Beaconsfield et aux Ministres des Grandes Puissances à Athènes, lesquels ont, d'ordre de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, donné à la Grèce l'assurance que la question Hellénique serait portée devant le Congrès, si elle consentait à rappeler ses troupes de la Thessalie.

Il est difficile d'admettre avec Safvet Pacha que "ni le Sultan ni son Gouvernement n'ont jamais eu à délibérer sur un projet de cession territoriale à la Grèce, et que la Sublime Porte a été appelée à s'en occuper pour la première fois, lorsque ce projet s'est fait jour au sein du Congrès." Lord Beaconsfield s'est exprimé en termes qui ne laissent subsister aucun doute sur les démarches du Cabinet Anglais en vue "d'inviter la Porte à délibérer sur la question souvent soulevée des frontières Turco-Grecques."

"Sentant que l'occasion était propice," a dit le premier Ministre Anglais, "de pouvoir obtenir, sans démembrer l'Empire Turc, des avantages sérieux en faveur de la Grèce, nous nous sommes adressés à la Porte pour l'inviter à délibérer sur la question souvent soulevée des frontières Turco-Helléniques. Nous avons pensé qu'au moment où des changements importants de territoire étaient imminents, l'occasion serait propice pour la Grèce de soumettre sa demande. Nous étions prêts à soutenir cette demande et à décider la Turquie à l'accorder d'une manière large et généreuse. Je dois dire que la manière dont nos ouvertures ont été accueillies était encourageante, plus qu'encourageante."

Dans un autre discours prononcé à la Chambre des Lords, le Premier Ministre Anglais s'est exprimé en ces termes:—

"Pendant la guerre et après sa fin, le Marquis de Salisbury n'a pas cessé d'agir et non sans succès en vue de régler avec la Porte les réclamations territoriales ou plutôt les vœux et les désirs pour une extension territoriale, dans des conditions à contribuer sérieusement à la prospérité du Royaume de Grèce. Dès le début le Sultan a exprimé le désir d'agir avec la Grèce dans un esprit d'amitié et de conciliation. Par conséquent il était disposé à accueillir avec bienveillance la proposition du Gouvernement Anglais; et, en effet, il l'a accueillie avec bienveillance."

En lisant les déclarations si nettes et si catégoriques de Lord Beaconsfield, nous avons tout lieu d'être surpris du ton affirmatif avec lequel Safvet Pacha annonce aux Puissances que ni le Sultan, ni son Gouvernement n'ont jamais eu à délibérer avant la réunion du Congrès sur le projet de rectification des frontières Helléniques. Il y a là un malentendu que le Cabinet Anglais ne manquera pas de dissiper.

On peut en dire autant de l'action des Puissances sur le Cabinet d'Athènes pour le faire renoncer au projet d'envahir les provinces Grecques de la Turquie. A toutes les représentations des Puissances, à leurs pressantes recommandations d'employer son influence pour contenir les Grecs de l'Empire Ottoman, le Cabinet d'Athènes répondait invariablement que sa neutralité était subordonnée à la condition que l'Europe obtiendrait pour les Hellènes les mêmes avantages d'ordre politique et administratif que la Russie exigerait pour les Slaves de la péninsule des Balkans. Devant ces déclarations aussi claires que loyales, les Ministres des Grandes Puissances à Athènes ont promis, au nom de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, que la question Grecque serait portée devant le Congrès qui, à la fin de la guerre, serait appelé à régler les affaires d'Orient. Cette promesse a été, tout le monde s'en souvient, renouvelée d'une manière encore plus positive lorsque le Gouvernement Hellénique consentit à rappeler ses troupes de la Thessalie.

Il est aussi inexact d'avancer que nous nous sommes abstenus de tout acte d'hostilité "par suite de l'échec constant de toutes nos demandes de nous faire garantir contre les suites de notre entreprise." Après les premiers échecs des armées Russes en Asie et sur le Danube, nous avons été vivement sollicités par le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg de déclarer la guerre à la Turquie. La possession de l'Epire, de la Thessalie, et de Candie nous étaient garantie de la manière la plus formelle. C'est à "l'influence pacifique des Puissances que la Turquie doit l'avantage de ne nous avoir pas rencontrés parmi ses ennemis sur les champs de bataille.

Safvet Pacha pousse le mépris de la vérité historique jusqu'à affirmer l'existence d'un manifeste "publié par M. Déligeorges, ex-Ministre du Roi Georges, pour justifier son Ministère du reproche d'inaction."

Ce manifeste n'a existé que dans l'imagination du Ministre Ottoman. M. Déligeorges faisait partie du Cabinet dit Œcuménique, mais il n'était ni Président du Conseil ni Ministre des Affaires Etrangères. Ce que Safvet Pacha qualifie pompeusement de manifeste n'est qu'un article du "Journal des Débats" d'Athènes, qui passe pour interpréter la pensée de l'ancien Président du Conseil. Cet article ne porte pas la signature de M. Déligeorges, n'a pas été, que nous sachions, écrit par M. Déligeorges, ne saurait être considéré comme une déclaration engageant le Cabinet. Car, depuis quand est-il permis à un homme d'Etat de confondre un article de journal, sans caractère officiel, avec le manifeste d'un Ministre?

Nous n'insisterons pas davantage sur ce qu'il y a d'insolite dans cette façon de procéder du Ministre Ottoman et nous aborderons la question principale, le grand argument que la Porte fait valoir pour motiver son refus de se rendre à l'invitation du Congrès. M. Delyanni a dit, dans sa déclaration, que "la Grèce aspire à réunir sous le même Gouvernement tous les pays habités par des populations d'origine Grecque, mais, qu'elle reconnait la nécessité de limiter, pour le moment, ses vœux à l'annexion de Candie et des provinces limitrophes du royaume." Une lecture attentive des Protocoles du Congrès suffit pour nous convaincre que les Plénipotentiaires des Grandes Puissances ont été frappés de la modération des demandes de la Grèce, et qu'ils lui ont tenu compte de cette modération.

La pensée de M. Delyanni a été évidemment travestie par Safvet Pacha. En disant que la Grèce limitait, pour le moment, ses vœux à l'annexion de la Crète, de l'Epire, et de la Thessalie, notre Premier Plénipotentiaire au Congrès n'a pas songé aux revendications futures de l'Hellénisme; il a eu seulement en vue les complications qui peuvent surgir, dans un avenir plus ou moins rapproché, et nécessiter de nouveaux changements en Orient, s'en remettant d'ailleurs toujours à l'équité, à l'impartialité des Puissances. Pourrait-on faire à la Grèce un crime de chercher à s'annexer les provinces Helléniques de l'Empire, si, pour une cause quelconque, ces provinces devaient échapper un jour à la domination des Turcs, lorsque, de nos jours, toutes les populations de même race tendent à s'unir sous un même Gouvernement? Pour penser autrement, il faudrait n'avoir pas assisté au mouvement unioniste qui s'est manifesté dans tous les pays de langue Grecque, mouvement que la Porte ne saurait entraver sans provoquer de grands bouleversements intérieurs. Safvet Pacha feint d'ignorer que la crise Orientale s'est produite sans nous, en dehors de nous, malgré nous, que nous avons même fait tous nos efforts pour limiter l'incendie en exerçant sur nos frères une forte pression pour les empêcher de s'insurger contre les Turcs. En limitant ses vœux à l'annexion des trois provinces, le Cabinet d'Athènes a donc voulu donner à l'Europe une preuve de son désir de se conformer à ses conseils en évitant de soulever des questions de nature à rendre impossible une entente cordiale entre la Grèce et la Turquie. Il est fâcheux que la Sublime Porte n'ait pas compris que cette entente qui peut assurer, jusqu'à un certain point, le repos de l'Orient, ne saurait avoir de bases durables sans l'annexion de l'Epire et de la Thessalie à la Grèce. C'est pourtant ce que M. Delyanni et M. Waddington ont démontré, par d'irrésistibles arguments, au Congrès de Berlin. Il ne s'agit donc pas, comme l'insinue Safvet Pacha, de la prospérité du Royaume de Grèce, mais de faire disparaître les motifs de discorde, que ces provinces entretiennent entre les deux pays. Aussi, nous ne craignons pas d'être accusés de présomption en soutenant que les Puissances ont été surtout influencées par cette dernière considération.

Nous ne nous arrêterons pas à réfuter le passage de la circulaire sur l'Ile de Crète. On sait qu'en 1867, comme en 1853, les volontaires ne sont allés à son secours que longtemps après l'ouverture des hostilités. Les Crétois ont, il est vrai, subi toutes les calamités résumées avec une certaine éloquence par Safvet Pacha, mais elles ont été le fait des procédés féroces de répression en usage parmi les Musulmans. Il est si vrai que les Crétois n'obéissent qu'à leur patriotisme que dans l'insurrection actuelle on chercherait vainement parmi les insurgés un seul combattant qui ne soit d'origine Crétoise. En Turquie, on considère volontiers comme étrangers, les exilés et les victimes des guerres civiles qui, des pays où ils se sont réfugiés, travaillent à l'affranchissement de leur patrie en attendant le moment propice d'accourir à son secours. Ce n'est pas en arrivant en Grèce que les réfugiés sont morts de misère, mais dans les gorges de l'Ida où ils s'étaient retirés pour se soustraire aux tortures, au déshonneur, à la mort que leur réservaient les soldats de l'Islam. Les tables mortuaires que nous avons publiées alors dans la Grèce sont encore présentes à tous les esprits.

Comme les Crétois, les Thessaliens et les Epirotes, abandonnés du dieu intérieur, n'ont jamais voulu "vivre heureux et prospères sous les lois de l'Empire Ottoman." Ils se sont insurgés en 1853; ils se sont insurgés en 1878; ils s'insurgeront chaque

fois que des complications extérieures feront naître dans leur cœur ulcéré l'espoir de s'affranchir du despotisme Musulman. Comme Candie, la Thessalie et l'Epire ont subi, dans leurs nombreuses insurrections, l'invasion de leurs enfants proscrits ou exilés, qui n'avaient pas d'autre moyen de revoir leurs foyers, de donner un témoignage d'amour à leur patrie opprimée. Les noms des Chefs des volontaires, Hadji-Pétro, Caraïskaki, Grivas, Tzavella, Spiro Milio, Vlakhopoulo, Bôïkos, pour ne citer que les plus importants, tous originaires de l'Epire et de la Thessalie, ne suffisent-ils pas à démontrer que ce que Safvet Pacha qualifie d'invasion Hellénique n'était, en réalité, qu'une invasion Thessalienne et Épirote? Et le Ministre Ottoman est-il bien sûr de ne pas être trahi, comme cela lui arrive à chaque ligne de sa note, par ses souvenirs, lorsqu'il avance que la France et l'Angleterre ont occupé militairement le Pirée pour "réprimer les excès de deux corps d'armée Grecs saccageant les pays qu'ils prétendaient vouloir délivrer?" N'était-ce pas plutôt pour arrêter le courant révolutionnaire, pour empêcher les insurgés de faire une diversion en faveur de la Russie? D'ailleurs, qui a jamais entendu parler des "deux corps d'armée Grecs," qui, au dire, de Safvet Pacha, avaient envahi l'Epire et la Thessalie en 1853?

Quand l'armée Grecque passa la frontière, l'Epire et la Thessalie étaient plongées dans une indicible anarchie. Les documents communiqués aux Parlements Anglais et Italien, sans parler des Rapports de nos Consuls, sont là pour le constater. Des bandes de Tcherkesses, des hordes de Bachi-Bozouks, des troupes de Guègues, violaient la sainteté du foyer, massacraient des familles entières, vendaient publiquement dans les marchés des villes Turques le produit de leurs exactions et de leurs rapines! S'il avait un peu plus de mémoire Safvet Pacha se serait rappelé la pétition indignée que le Patriarche Œcuménique adressait à la Porte pour protester contre la conduite de ses autorités, contre les rapts, les extorsions, les violences, les meurtres, les sacriléges, dont ses ouailles étaient victimes, non-seulement en Epire et en Thessalie, mais en Bulgarie, où les Tcherkesses massacraient les populations Grecques de Cavarna, mais en Thrace, où les Bachi-Bozouks passaient au fil de l'epée les habitants de Byzies! C'est pour mettre un terme à cette intolérable situation que le Cabinet d'Athènes ordonna à ses troupes de passer la frontière; et, quoiqu'en pense Safvet Pasha, il ne les a rappelées que lorsque la plupart des Puissances lui ont donné l'assurance qu'elles prendraient les Chrétiens sous leur protection, qu'elles porteraient la question Hellénique devant le Congrès. Or, poser cette question, c'était, à moins que l'on n'attribue aux Puissances, comme semble l'insinuer la note Turque, d'indignes arrière-pensées, prendre l'engagement de la résoudre dans un sens favorable aux aspirations nationales de la Grèce. C'est ce qui résulte, au reste, des Protocoles du Congrès, du Traité de Berlin, et des déclarations de Lord Beaconsfield et du Marquis de Salisbury au Parlement Anglais.

No. 130.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 15.) *Pesth, August 31, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE stayed here, first, to see M. Kallai, secondly, in consequence of a telégraphic despatch from your Lordship saying that a letter had left London for me by messenger.

My conversation with M. Kallai was very satisfactory, as he expressed a desire to co-operate with me in the discussions of the Commission.

He feels the great difficulties there will be in the way of a settlement likely to satisfy the requirements of the populations and those of the Porte. These difficulties may in his case be probably enhanced if it be true, as generally reported here, that it is intended to organize the Provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina under a purely military régime.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 131.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 56. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, September 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 55, Political, of the 10th August, on the subject of military movements, I have the honour to report that the Russian military bridge which was taken to pieces and removed from Ibraïla has been put together again at Ismaïl, and is now opened once a-week to allow vessels to pass. At Toultcha some landing-stages have been made, but there is no bridge.

Between the 10th and 16th August from 200 to 300 Russian reserves arrived by the Galatz-Bender Railway; since then, small detachments of troops have been returning to Russia by that route as well as by the line to Roman. On the 28th two Russian merchant-steamers passed down the river having horses on board, which they appear to have landed at Reni; on the 29th, about 300 Russian troops left Galatz for Russia.

The following troops are on the march towards Jassy, passing through Fokshani, Tekutch, and Berlad:—

No. 4 Battery of 4th Brigade of Reserve Artillery;
The 30th Regiment of Cossacks;
No. 10 Battery of Cossack Artillery;
A portion of the 2nd Brigade of Reserve Artillery;
And a portion of the 2nd Field Engineer Train.

Mr. Vice-Consul Morphy reports that a train filled with Russian cavalry, men and horses, passed Ibraïla yesterday, going towards Bucharest.

On the 19th and 20th three steamers flying the Turkish flag passed up river, going, it was reported, to bring away war material from the Danube fortresses.

On the 20th August 500 more men of the 11th Regiment of Dorobanti arrived at Galatz by steamer from Ibraïla; this regiment was disbanded on the 23rd ultimo, only about 150 men remain in Galatz, which is the usual number for police duties, &c.

On the 21st August the 6th Regiment of Roumanian Infantry, about 600 men, and the 5th Regiment of Calarashi (Cavalry), about 300 strong, arrived at Galatz; these form the ordinary garrison for the district.

On the same day the Roumanian gun-boats "Roumania" and "Fulgerul" were handed back by the Russians to the Roumanians; and on the 31st the "Stefan cel Mare" was given over. These constitute the Roumanian fleet; they are all three small vessels, and carry from two to four small guns. The "Stefan cel Mare" and "Roumania" have gone down river this morning, to Reni and Ismaïl it is said. The "Fulgerul" remains at Galatz.

The five Russian iron steamers, that were alluded to in a former despatch as having been forwarded in pieces by the Bender-Galatz Railway, and put together at Reni with the assistance of a French engineer, are still at that port. They are low in the water, very broad for their length, and a great part of the engine appears above the deck; they present the appearance of iron steam-barges, and are said to be intended for floating torpedo-magazines. One of them came up to Galatz on a trial trip a short time since; she appeared to steer well, but did not steam fast and the engine was very noisy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 132.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 625. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 3, 1878.*

YOUR Lordship is already in possession of Mr. Freeman's despatch No. 55, describing the harsh proceedings of the Austrian Commanders at Bosna-Serai towards the Mussulman population.

I thought it right to communicate the substance of it to Baron Orczy, for Count Andrassy's information, representing all the evil consequences that must be expected from such a line of conduct, and telling him that Mr. Freeman, far from being a

witness likely to have an unfriendly bias against the occupying troops, was one of those who had always held that, if the Mahommedans were treated with consideration, the great body of the respectable class among them would not be found inimical.

Baron Orczy was evidently distressed by my communication, but said, with some truth, that when a town had been taken after a resistance such as was offered at Serajevo, measures that might appear harsh might be necessary precautions against the renewal of disturbance.

Count Andrassy has several times assured me that the strictest orders had been given to the Commanders to treat the populations with every consideration; but during the past three years there has been too much evidence that the Slav Generals pursue their own policy, without regard to that of their Government, to permit one to believe that it will be different on the present occasion.

If Mr. Freeman's Report of the treatment of the Mahommedans by the Austrian Commanders required corroboration, it is to be found in an article of the "Neue Freie Presse" of Vienna, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, stating that while the Christians who were called upon to furnish cattle for the use of the Imperial troops received receipts upon which they could recover the payment of their value, no such receipts were given to the Mahommedans, whose animals were simply confiscated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S. *September 4.*—Since writing the above I have had an opportunity of mentioning these occurrences to Count Andrassy, and at his request gave him an extract from Mr. Freeman's despatch. He spoke confidentially of the manner in which he was frequently thwarted by the military Commanders; but said he would do all in his power to insure the same treatment for all the inhabitants of Bosnia, whether Mussulman or Christian, which was the basis of his policy.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Extract from the "Neue Freie Presse."

(Translation.)

AFTER the reconnoitring corps had performed the first half of its duties, and had observed the enemy at Glasinac, the return march to Serajevo was entered upon on the 26th, while the second part of the duties entrusted to it, that of procuring a requisition of cattle, was executed. One hundred and sixty head of cattle were easily driven together, of which part were taken from the Christian inhabitants upon a receipt given, which can be immediately exchanged for money payment on presentation to the Army Intendance. That the cattle belonging to the Mussulmans were simply driven away without giving the inhabitants any right either to a return or compensation must be looked upon as a harsh measure, especially as the inhabitants of this district have mostly shown themselves peaceable. They have neither taken part in the insurrection nor left their dwellings, and have, therefore, gained at least as much right as the Christians to considerate treatment.

It is comprehensible and natural to take possession of the enemy's property in a declared insurgent district, particularly if it can be of use to our army, and that many innocent people must suffer with the guilty is unavoidable; but it is impossible to approve when the peaceable inhabitants of a district are robbed of their property only because they are of the same religion as the insurgents. Such actions are only calculated to excite the sufferers against us, to turn them into enemies, and, by depriving them of their chief means of subsistence, i.e., their cattle, to drive them into the arms of the insurgents.

No. 133.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 626.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 4, 1878.*

SINCE the taking of Bosna-Serai, on the 19th ultimo, there has been little or no military news from Bosnia, but reinforcements have continued to be forwarded to the different Austrian corps, and the whole road between Serajevo and Brod is now declared to be secure.

The insurgents must be in some force in the north-east district of the province, for they have continued to make repeated, though fruitless, attacks upon Count Szapary's position at Doboj.

That General has received strict injunctions not to make any offensive movements without orders, which will not be given to him till the force under his orders is considered sufficient to defy all opposition likely to be offered.

In the Herzegovina no progress has been made, except in the occupation, which was announced yesterday, of the position of Driena, which lies within three or four miles of the Austrian frontier, on the road to Trebinje, which latter place it is important to reach as quickly as possible, as the garrison, consisting of three battalions of Turkish troops, which had expressed the wish to pass over to the Austrians, is besieged by the insurgents.

Considering the very bad moral effect which must be produced throughout the country if a body of troops well-disposed to the Austrians should be overpowered by the insurgents so close to the frontier, it is certain that an advance to their relief would have been made before this if it had been practicable.

The Government continue to deny that the Servians or Montenegrins are taking part with the insurgents, but the Austrian newspapers assert, on the contrary, that they are doing so to a great extent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 134.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 627. Confidential.)
Vienna, September 4, 1878.

My Lord,

UPON my communicating to Major Gonne your Lordship's telegram of the 29th ultimo, he at once proceeded to Brod, to be within easier reach of the Austrian army of occupation, and I renewed the application for the authorization which I had asked for when General Ocelock was expected.

I was, however, told that no official permission would be given, but it was added confidentially that Major Gonne might proceed in all security to the head-quarters, as the Commander had been informed that he was coming, and would receive him properly.

This mode of proceeding was adopted with a view to escape similar applications from other Embassies, which the Government is anxious to avoid, and is an exceptional act of courtesy towards Her Majesty's Government.

I have informed Major Gonne that he can proceed to head-quarters without waiting for an official permission, and he will, I believe, join Count Szapary's division at Doboj.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 135.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 629. Confidential.)
Vienna, September 5, 1878.

My Lord,

IT was not till yesterday afternoon that Count Andrassy gave me any answer to the recommendation contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 31st ultimo for delaying the advance of the Austrian forces towards Novi-Bazar on account of the difficulty which the Porte might experience in restraining the Albanians in their present state of excitement.

He said a similar appeal had been made to him directly from the Porte, and that he was not indisposed to meet it, but the conduct of the Turkish Government had been so equivocal that he was obliged to proceed with caution and suspicion, and to satisfy himself that if the advance of the troops is deferred, advantage is not taken of the delay to prepare an organized resistance.

He had, therefore, applied for and obtained from the Porte the promise of a safe-conduct and escort, if necessary, for the Austrian Consul at Prisrend to enable him to proceed to Novi-Bazar and Mitrovitza to ascertain the position of things at those places, and his decision would be guided by the report he should receive.

If, for instance, he learns that preparations are being made for resistance, or that strategical positions are being strengthened which would increase the difficulties to be overcome if opposition should be offered, the Imperial troops would at once receive orders to advance and to occupy the country as quickly as possible.

Count Andrassy expressed warm acknowledgments to Her Majesty's Government for their endeavours to persuade the Porte to meet his wishes in the matter of occupation, of which he had been fully informed by Count Zichy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 136.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 631. Confidential.)
Vienna, September 6, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY, who spoke to me yesterday afternoon about the negotiations for a Convention with Turkey respecting the occupation, exhibited extreme bitterness against the Porte, and even accused Carathéodory Pasha of encouraging his Government to prevent the full execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

From the numerous conversations I have had with the Turkish Plenipotentiary during his stay here, I am satisfied of the injustice of the accusation, for he has repeatedly assured me that he was doing his best to persuade his Government that, however hard some of the arrangements of the Treaty may appear to them, nothing was now left but to accept them, and, by giving a prompt execution to all its provisions as far as the Porte was concerned, to leave no pretext for the prolongation of the present provisional state of things, which is fraught with danger.

Count Andrassy on this occasion alluded for the first time to the Memorandum he had signed at Berlin, in which the provisional character of the proposed Austrian occupation of Bosnia was admitted.

He had consented to it, he said, because without some such declaration on his part the instructions of the Turkish Plenipotentiaries would have obliged them to withhold their signature from the Treaty, which, according to his conviction, would have led to the absolute destruction of Turkey; but between making the declaration in the manner he had done and embodying it in a formal Convention there was the widest possible distinction, and when the latter course was suddenly proposed to him the other day by Carathéodory Pasha he could only at once and summarily reject it.

The Memorandum had been signed upon the understanding that an immediate arrangement of the details of the occupation should be come to, and this had been rendered impossible by the extravagant proposals of the Porte, which began by insisting upon an engagement from the Imperial Government that the occupation should not last beyond six months, and others scarcely less inadmissible conditions were afterwards brought forward, making any agreement impracticable.

For himself he took his stand upon the text of the Treaty, and he would maintain it as long as possible; the Treaty neither said that the occupation was provisional nor that it was to be permanent, but it provided that the details of it were to be settled between the two Governments, which he was and still is ready to do; but he would not go beyond the terms of the Treaty by declaring in a Convention that the occupation was merely temporary, when all the world was aware that there was no prospect of the state of Bosnia ever being such as to enable the Imperial troops to retire from it. It could not be maintained that such a declaration came within the details that Austria and Turkey were to arrange between themselves, and they had no call to take it upon themselves to decide a question which the European Powers had left open.

He would be equally indisposed to go beyond the Treaty by the formal annexation of Bosnia; for if such a step were taken before the evacuation of Bulgaria and East Roumelia by the Russians, they might find in it a pretext for remaining, and might

allege that Austria-Hungary having annexed a province in the west of European Turkey, they were not bound to give up their hold on the east.

If the Porte refuses to conclude a Convention fixing the details of the occupation he must of course do without it, but the character of the whole proceeding would be altered; he wished Austria-Hungary to have in European Turkey much the same protective position as had been assumed by Great Britain in Asia, but the Porte, in not facilitating the occupation, seemed bent on forcing him from a friendly attitude, which would secure it from attack by Servia and Montenegro, into a position in which it may be necessary for him to act in concert with those two Principalities, which have continued to express their willingness to assist him in his operations, expecting to reap their profit at the expense of the Porte.

With regard to the question of the flag, Count Andrassy said that although he had certainly consented to agree that it might fly along with that of Austria-Hungary, he had continually declared that he would not engage to adhere to any of his concessions unless they were accepted at once, and the events that had occurred in Bosnia had rendered it impossible any longer to adhere to this one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 137.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 512.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September 5, 1878.*

HERR VON RADOWITZ informed me to-day that he had issued the Circular note referred to in my despatch No. 504, marked Confidential, of the 31st ultimo, to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin on the 2nd instant, and that he had already received satisfactory replies from the French, Austrian, and Russian Governments, who agreed with the proposal of the German Government, that identic language should be held to the Porte as to her non-fulfilment of the engagements she entered into by the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency said he need hardly express to me the importance attached by the German Government to the answer from that of Her Majesty, and that he could not but hope, from the general nature of the language proposed to be held to Turkey, that Her Majesty's Government would give a similar answer to that returned by Austria, France, and Russia, and that in the interests of all such answers would not be long delayed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 138.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, September 9.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 28 Août, 1878.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint en copie, pour votre information, le télégramme que le Prince Nicolas m'a adressé pour demander l'exécution des stipulations du Traité de Berlin qui concernent le Monténégro, ainsi que la réponse que j'y ai faite.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 138.

Prince Nicolas to Safvet Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 13 Août, 1878.*

VENANT de recevoir officiellement du Président du Congrès une expédition authentique du Traité de Berlin, je saisis avec une grande satisfaction cette occasion de reprendre la correspondance avec votre Altesse dans l'espoir fondé sur mes propres

sentiments que dorénavant les rapports entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté seront toujours ceux d'un bon voisinage, d'une cordiale entente. Je tiens à affirmer dès à présent mes intentions pacifiques et sincères et je prie votre Altesse de vouloir bien se charger d'en transmettre l'assurance à Sa Majesté Impériale avec l'expression de mon très-haut respect. L'époque étant prochaine où les décisions arrêtées à Berlin devront avoir leur exécution, votre Altesse pensera sans doute comme moi que dans l'intérêt même des populations les Gouvernements doivent se mettre immédiatement d'accord pour l'accomplissement des stipulations essentielles, notamment des échanges de territoire. Dans cette idée, je viens informer votre Altesse que je suis prêt à remettre entre les mains des autorités Ottomanes les districts occupés par mes troupes, qui doivent faire retour à la Turquie le jour même que je serai aussi en pleine possession de ceux attribués au Monténégro. Je prie votre Altesse de vouloir bien m'indiquer le moment où les dispositions du Gouvernement Impérial seront prises pour procéder à cet échange. Pour le bien même des habitants et pour éviter toute complication, il est fort à désirer que le délai ne dépasse pas la date fixée par le Traité de Berlin, car il importe de ne pas laisser le temps de s'aggraver à l'esprit de résistance que j'ai le regret de constater et qui à Gusindjé Plava et Kolachin comme à Spusz et Podgoritza est fomenté par des fonctionnaires de Scutari bien plus qu'il n'est le mouvement spontané de gens de ces localités. Votre Altesse comprendra à quel point je désire de n'être pas forcé d'inaugurer mon pouvoir dans ces contrées par des mesures autres que celles de la douceur, et je compte sur son concours pour éviter toute cause de difficultés et de contrainte. J'ai l'espérance de recevoir de votre Altesse une réponse inspirée par des sentiments conformes à ceux qui m'animent.

Inclosure 2 in No. 138.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Nicolas.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 20 Août, 1878.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de soumettre à Sa Majesté le Sultan le télégramme de votre Altesse du 13 courant.

Mon auguste Maître a été très-satisfait de l'expression des sentiments professés par votre Altesse envers lui, et de ses intentions pacifiques et loyales envers la Sublime Porte. Je suis chargé de donner en son nom à votre Altesse l'assurance que le Gouvernement Impérial est animé, de son côté, du plus sincère désir d'entretenir avec le Gouvernement de votre Altesse les meilleurs rapports de voisinage et de bonne entente dans l'intérêt des deux pays.

En ce qui touche l'exécution des stipulations du Traité de Berlin qui concernent le Monténégro et spécialement l'échange des territoires qui doivent être respectivement restitués, je m'empresse de donner à votre Altesse l'assurance que la Sublime Porte reconnaît la nécessité de régulariser la situation de ces contrées qui font l'objet de toute sa sollicitude, et qu'elle prendra toutes les mesures propres à obtenir le résultat qui fait l'objet du vœu commun des deux Gouvernements.

Je dois cependant remarquer que le délai fixé par le Traité est près d'expirer, et que quelque soit notre désir d'effectuer l'échange des territoires en temps voulu, il paraît impossible d'éviter un retard qui devra être exclusivement attribué à la nécessité de préparer les esprits au changement stipulé et de prévenir ainsi toute complication éventuelle.

Le Muchir Mehmed Ali Pacha, chargé de cette mission, se rendra incessamment sur les lieux. Les autorités Impériales ayant reçu à leur tour les instructions nécessaires dans le même sens, je prie votre Altesse de vouloir bien donner de son côté des ordres en conséquence à qui de droit.

No. 139.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated confidentially to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, September 9.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 3 Septembre, 1878.*

REÇU télégramme No. 353, Spécial.

Notre papier-monnaie se déprécie tous les jours d'une façon inquiétante et cet état de choses exerce un effet pernicieux sur les revenus de l'Etat, jette le plus grand

trouble dans les transactions, entrave le fonctionnement régulier des services publics, et paralyse toute action du Gouvernement. Pour peu que le discrédit du Caïmé continue, il nous causerait les embarras les plus sérieux et pourrait devenir la source de graves perturbations dans le pays. La Sublime Porte, vivement préoccupée de cette situation alarmante, a engagé des pourparlers avec M. Layard, et a demandé par son entremise l'appui bienveillant du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique pour la conclusion d'un emprunt destiné au retrait du papier-monnaie. Lord Salisbury a fait un accueil favorable à nos ouvertures et a bien voulu nous promettre son concours pour la réalisation de cette opération financière.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire de son côté des démarches auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique pour la prompte conclusion de cette affaire. Votre Excellence comprend le prix que la Sublime Porte attache au succès de ces négociations; elle n'épargnera, j'en suis convaincu, aucun effort pour arriver à une solution immédiate et favorable; elle rendrait un service signalé au Gouvernement et au pays en les délivrant promptement de la plaie du papier-monnaie.

No. 140.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, September 9.)

Constantinople, le 7 Septembre, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

VOUS savez que Mehmed Ali Pacha avait reçu mission de se rendre dans les localités qui doivent être annexées à la Serbie et au Monténégro à l'effet de calmer les esprits et de préparer les populations des villes à un changement qui doit les unir à des éléments qui sont étrangers tant par la race que par la religion. Nous venons de recevoir des lieux mêmes où Mehmed Ali Pacha accomplissait sa mission la nouvelle la plus douloureuse. Les habitants de Yakova et d'Ipek se sont réunis et ont envahi le conak où s'était établi Mehmed Ali Pacha avec son escorte. Un conflit sanglant eut lieu entre les gardes du Général et les assaillants. Puis ces derniers ayant incendié une partie du conak, Mehmed Ali Pacha parvint à se réfugier dans un koulé (fortin), mais il y fut poursuivi par les assaillants qui pénétrèrent de vive force dans ce réfuge et mirent à mort le Muchir et quelques officiers qui l'accompagnaient.

No. 141.

M. Radinos to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated confidentially to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, September 9.)

[Not for Blue Book.]

Larisse, le 9 Août, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que conformément à votre dépêche No. 1661 et à votre télégramme chiffré du 7 courant, je n'ai négligé ni négligerai aucune occasion pour convaincre les Turcs des bonnes dispositions du Gouvernement Hellénique à leur égard, et pour les persuader que sous son administration ils jouiront, à l'égal de tous les autres citoyens Hellènes, de la prospérité, de la sécurité, des bienfaits d'une administration régulière, et en un mot, de tous les droits civils et politiques dont jouissent les autres citoyens; je n'ai pas manqué non plus de leur dire que le Gouvernement Hellénique a tout intérêt, en vue de desseins politiques intérieures, à se montrer exceptionnellement favorable et bienveillant à l'égard des Turcs afin que, si plus tard dans d'autres provinces Grecques des populations Musulmanes se trouvaient dans le cas d'opter entre le Gouvernement Hellénique et un autre Gouvernement quelconque, elles donnassent la préférence au nôtre, voyant que dans les provinces déjà annexées à la Grèce leurs coreligionnaires vivent heureux.

Je puis assurer votre Excellence que ces démarches ont eu des résultats satisfaisants; les idées des Turcs se modifient, leurs craintes se dissipent. Afin de leur inspirer encore plus de confiance dans les dispositions favorables de notre Gouvernement à leur égard, je leur ai fait dire par quelqu'un de confiance d'envoyer un des leurs à Athènes où les assurances que je leur donne leur seraient renouvelées par votre Excellence; alors ils se persuaderaient encore plus de la vérité de mes paroles. Cette proposition leur a agréé, mais ils ont ajourné l'envoi de leur représentant, dans la crainte qu'une telle démarche faite prématurément ne les compromît aux yeux de

la Porte, ce qui ne leur conviendrait pas dans le cas où l'annexion de leurs provinces ne se réaliserait point; en effet, le Gouvernement Turc, les amis influents qu'ils ont à Constantinople, et surtout Housin Bey, qu'ils y avaient envoyé comme leur délégué, ne cessent de leur répéter que tout ce qu'on dit de l'annexion est tout-à-fait dénué de fondement; que la décision du Congrès à ce sujet n'est pas obligatoire; que l'Europe laisse la Turquie à son libre arbitre; que celle-ci, pour satisfaire au vœu du Congrès, consentira peut-être à la cession de quelques lopins de terres près de la frontière, chose qui leur serait indifférente, toutes leurs grandes propriétés étant sises en deçà de cette ligne. Ces rumeurs font sans doute plaisir aux Musulmans et les portent à espérer que l'annexion réclamée par la Grèce de la plus grande partie de la Thessalie ne se fera peut-être pas. Ils le souhaitent au fond de leurs cœurs, mais ils n'entendent pas, pour les motifs que je vous ai souvent déduits, résister par les armes à l'annexion indiquée par le Congrès. Ni eux ni leur Gouvernement ne feront une résistance effective si l'Europe manifeste sa ferme volonté de voir son arrêt obéi. Les Turcs comprennent que toute résistance armée, quelle qu'en soit l'issue à la volonté de l'Europe, leur sera préjudiciable et funeste; ils se résignent à ce que le susdit arrêt soit exécuté, mais ils désirent qu'il le soit aussi peu bruyamment que possible. Je suis donc convaincu que les Turcs d'ici s'opposeront à toute velléité de résistance armée que manifesterait leur Gouvernement, pour peur que l'Europe déclare que la décision du Congrès n'étoit pas un simple vœu. Toutefois, bien des indices me font croire que la Porte médite de renouveler ici les scènes dont la Bosnie est le théâtre.

La semaine passée un vapeur a débarqué à Volo des armes du système Martini, et l'on dit que le Gouvernement se propose d'en faire la distribution aux Turcs. En effet les Primats Turcs exercent, je le répète, une influence prépondérante sur la plèbe Musulmane et sur les Koniars, et ces Primats s'opposeront à de semblables desseins de leur Gouvernement.

Il y a plus; la situation de la Thessalie est très-différente de celle de la Bosnie. En Thessalie les Turcs sont en très-faible minorité par rapport aux Grecs; puis ils sont disséminés; leurs villages, peu nombreux, se trouvent éloignés les uns des autres, en sorte qu'ils ne peuvent agir en commun; la configuration du pays ne favoriserait pas non plus une résistance de leur part, puisque les localités montagneuses et faciles à défendre, sont occupées par des Grecs hostiles aux Musulmans; par conséquent toute résistance des Turcs lors de leur annexion devient impossible; il n'y a qu'une chose à craindre, c'est que la Porte ne forme des bandes composées de Hounidouts et de Zaptiés soi-disant déserteurs; ces bandes ne pourraient faire aucune résistance à l'annexion ni nous inquiéter sérieusement; dès qu'apparaîtra l'armée Hellénique ils se disperseront et ne pourront pas même se maintenir longtemps dans le pays, poursuivies qu'elles seront par nos troupes et par les Grecs indigènes; néanmoins, elles pourront nuire en se livrant à des déprédations et en pillant les villages.

On continue de poursuivre et d'emprisonner de prétendus suspects. Cette semaine on a mis en liberté vingt-deux individus détenus depuis deux mois; mais d'autres les ont aussitôt remplacés; ceux qui ont été relaxés ont payé chacun trois ou quatre livres, cela est de notoriété publique. Mr. Blunt, seul, qui est dans l'habitude de préconiser l'incorruptibilité des employés Turcs, est le seul aussi qui s'indigne de cette calomnie dirigée contre eux.

Inclosure in No. 141.

M. Radinos to Vice-Consul Suter.

Tyrlé, le 7 Août, 1878.

M. le Consul,

LES souffrances des Chrétiens s'accroissent ici sans cesse, au lieu de diminuer. Après que les insurrections ont cessé par suite de l'intervention Anglaise, au lieu de l'apaisement et du calme, auxquels on s'attendait, c'est l'anarchie que nous avons, et l'impunité des méchants; l'inertie des autorités les enhardit à opprimer les gens paisibles et laborieux. Dans presque tous les villages de la province on signale des déprédations, des violences, des enlèvements, des captures, et des délivrances moyennant rançons; tout cela se renouvelle chaque jour. Les Guègues et les Albanais envoyés à la poursuite des brigands oppriment les populations encore plus que ceux-ci. L'armée Impériale signale bien des gens comme brigands ou receleurs; elle les outrage, les bat, les met aux fers, puis elle les relâche moyennant rançon. De pareils faits ont été signalés par exemple à Kussia, où le nommé Mehemet Moualimzino et un officier avec un détachement de soldats ont fait une tournée pendant laquelle ils ont maltraité

d'importance un grand nombre d'individus, puis ils les ont relâchés après avoir pris aux uns de l'argent aux autres du beurre et du fromage; ceux qui ne donnaient rien étaient enchaînés et conduits à Tricala ou à Larisse. Les soldats même ont profané des églises et ils y ont enlevé beaucoup d'objets précieux. Ainsi, par exemple, ils ont dévalisé l'église du village d'Ardain et celle du village de Sarakina. Au village de Porta-Panaghia, il y avait un temple antique, bâti il y a 800 ans environ par l'Empereur Adrien; ce temple était renommé pour la beauté et le luxe de son architecture; eh bien, les soldats en garnison dans ce village ont dernièrement envahi ce temple; ils y ont pris tout ce qu'il y avait de précieux, ils ont brisé ou détérioré les saintes images, les belles colonnes de marbre; ils ont détruit le tabernacle et ruiné les fondements du temple; les candelabres en bronze ou en fer, ils les vendaient dans les villages circonvoisins. L'Evêque de Triki, informé de ces faits, s'en est plaint au Pacha, et celui-ci, avec le Caïmacam et l'Archevêque, s'est rendu sur les lieux pour voir les dégâts de ses propres yeux; il refusait toutefois d'admettre que ces méfaits fussent commis par l'armée Impériale, mais les candelabres vendus ont établi la culpabilité des quatre compagnies du regiment Kaiser, lesquels tiennent garnison à Porta, et qui ont pour chef Mehemet Aga. Voici une note concernant les troupes cantonnées à Triki et aux environs.

L'Agent Consulaire à Triki,
(Signé) RADINOS.

No. 142.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 819.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 8, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER considers the situation very serious. He says that the whole of Albania is in a blaze. That after the murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha and all those who were with him, the Porte is at a loss to know whom to send to the Province; that Turkish troops, even if sent from Constantinople, cannot be trusted to fire upon Mussulman population, and that Albanians are determined not to accept decision of Congress with regard to surrender of Albanian territory to Servia and Montenegro.

No. 143.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 820.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 9, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Blunt, dated Larissa, 8th September:—

"The Commander-in-chief in Thessaly is confidentially ordered by Porte to detain at Salonica four infantry battalions, composed of recruits that were recently sent there from Constantinople for service in North Albania, and to replace them in this service by four battalions of Syrian troops from the garrison in Thessaly.

"This measure is taken in consequence of determined attitude of the population in North Albania to oppose annexation to Montenegro. Assassination of Mehemet Ali has caused sensation here."

No. 144.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September* 8, 1878.

THE German Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to the Italian Government the German Circular relative to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. The Italian Government has, pending reference to Count Corti, now absent, given an evasive answer; they have, however, heard that Her Majesty's Government have raised objections to the proposed measure which they believe may cause its failure. This will, probably, in some degree influence Count Corti in his decision.

No. 145.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September* 8, 1878.

REFERRING to my telegram of 3rd instant, Greek Minister at Constantinople having reported to his Government that Porte would delay an answer to Greek note until after the Great Powers should have sent an answer to Turkish Circular of 8th August, Greek Government sent off last night to the Great Powers a demand for their mediation in the matter of the rectification of the Greek frontiers.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 146.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 8, 1878.

A TELEGRAM from the Grand Duke Michael to the Emperor, published officially this morning, announces that the Russian troops entered Batoum at 11 A.M. Friday, the 6th instant. The Russian authorities immediately took possession of the town, all the Turkish civil employés having left. Fifteen tabors of Turkish troops still remain, but will be sent off as soon as possible. All quiet everywhere in the district. Dervish Pasha, with deputation of Mussulmans and of Christians, met the Russian General at entrance of Batoum.

No. 147.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *September* 9, 1877.

SAW the new German Ambassador last night.

He says that the Commission will meet on the 13th. He seemed opposed to locality of sittings, and was generally pro-Russian in his language. This I think makes Lord Donoughmore's journey the more necessary, and so does Ambassador.

No. 148.

Mr. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, September* 9, 1878.

NUBAR PASHA understands, from conversation with French Consul-General, that French Government aim at binding Egyptian Government either by a verbal or written engagement with respect to nomination of French and English Ministers.

His Excellency has informed me that if Her Majesty's Government sanction Mr. R. Wilson's appointment, he will at once offer Ministry of Public Works to a Frenchman, so as to place both Governments on an equal footing, and leave no ground of complaint to the French Government, and thus avoid being bound by any agreements made beforehand.

No. 149.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 9.*)

Berlin, September 9, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT STOLBERG opened the new Reichstag at 2 o'clock this day. In his opening Speech Count Stolberg confined himself entirely to the Social Democrat question. The Government, he said, were still convinced that an anti-Socialist measure was necessary, and hoped that the Reichstag would support them in this.

No. 150.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, September 9, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

GERMANY has asked the Signatory Powers to join in an identic remonstrance with the Porte for not executing Articles of Treaty of Berlin with respect to Bosnia, Greece, Montenegro, Varna, and Batoum. England has declined to join: the proposal will probably come to nothing. It is certain, however, to be renewed. In communicating this to the Porte you should remind Minister that the attitude of England will largely depend on the answer given by Turkey to her proposals of reform. These have been made studiously moderate, but it must be borne in mind by the Ministers that England can accept nothing less, and that any hesitation on the part of the Porte will cause the gravest displeasure here.

No. 151.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Thomson.

Foreign Office, September 9, 1878, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram of 7th instant, you may authorize Her Majesty's Consul at Resht to protect Ottoman subjects.

No. 152.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1053. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, September 8, 1878.

Sir,

THE German Government have addressed a communication to the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin, inviting them to join in an identic remonstrance to the Porte on account of the non-execution of the Articles of the Treaty having reference to Bosnia, to the rectification of the Greek frontier, to the cessions of territory to be made to Montenegro, and to the evacuation of Varna and Batoum.

Her Majesty's Government have declined to join in this remonstrance, and it is probable that the proposal will, for the present, fall through; but it will certainly be renewed at a later period.

I have informed your Excellency by telegraph of the above, and have authorized you to communicate what has passed to the Porte. I have, at the same time, requested you to remind the Turkish Ministers that the attitude of England in future discussions will very largely depend upon the manner in which the proposals of reform, which you have been instructed to make, are received. Those proposals have been made studiously moderate, but the Turkish Ministers must bear in mind that nothing less can be accepted by England, and that any signs of hesitation or unwillingness on the part of the Porte will cause very grave dissatisfaction in this country and have a most unfavourable effect on public opinion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 153.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Marquis d'Harcourt.

Foreign Office, September 9, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

THE German Chargé d'Affaires called on me on my return to London on Saturday afternoon and renewed to me the information which he had already, on Thursday last, conveyed to me through Mr. Lister, that the German Government were anxious to induce the Powers to take steps for urging on the Porte the punctual and immediate execution of the Treaty of Berlin in several matters in which, in their opinion, unjustifiable delay had taken place; and the form in which they desired the intervention of the Powers was that of an identic note of remonstrance.

The points in regard to which they thought pressure from the Powers was required were—

1. Bosnia.
2. Herzegovina.
3. Batoum.
4. Varna.
5. Greece.

I have replied generally that Her Majesty's Government were of opinion that the time had certainly not come for so decided a step; and that even if a remonstrance should at a future time become necessary, some of the subjects referred to hardly seemed to furnish materials for complaint; and with respect to others, it might be difficult to address remonstrances exclusively to the Porte.

At the same time, Her Majesty's Government entirely agree with the French Government that the Treaty of Berlin should be carried into effect completely and with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 154.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 57d.)

Foreign Office, September 9, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received Lord Lyons' despatch No. 652 of the 17th ultimo, reporting the language held to his Excellency by M. Waddington as to making the recognition by France of the independence of Roumania dependent upon her carrying out the stipulation in the Treaty of Berlin securing religious equality.

In reply, I have to observe that Her Majesty's Government are disposed to agree with M. Waddington that the formal acceptance, and, as far as practicable, the execution of the conditions annexed to the Treaty of Berlin in regard to the independence of Servia and of Roumania should in both cases precede the formal acknowledgment of such independence.

I have to authorize you to speak in this sense to M. Waddington.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 154A.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 2. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, September 9, 1878.

Sir,

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Commissioner, under Article 14 of the Treaty of Berlin, for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria, you will proceed without delay to Constantinople, where the Commission is to meet in the first instance.

You will learn the views of your fellow-Commissioners as to the manner in which the labours of the Commission shall be conducted, and the order in which they shall be taken. Her Majesty's Government are themselves decidedly of opinion that it will be expedient that the Commission should commence with the demarcation of the boundary to the north-west, bordering on the Dobrudscha, which is to be ceded to Roumania, and that the settlement of the frontier to the south, along the line of the Balkans, shall be left until later, when, according to the stipulations of the Treaty, the Russian forces will have quitted the country. The difficult and delicate questions involved in the demarcation of the latter line can scarcely be properly investigated and discussed while the country on both sides is in the occupation of a foreign force.

You have been provided with a staff sufficient to take part in a regular survey of the boundaries, and it is presumed that the Commission will decide on making such a survey. Should you find, however, that your colleagues consider this unnecessary, you will at once report the fact to me by telegraph, and inform me what reduction in the number of your assistants will be compatible with the proper execution of the work contemplated.

The general line of the boundaries, so far as it was settled at Berlin, is stated in Article II of the Treaty, of which a copy is inclosed. Further information as to the grounds on which these conclusions were arrived at will be found in the Protocols of the Congress, of which copies are also inclosed.

The considerations which are to govern the Commission in choosing the point on the Danube, to the east of Silistria, from which the Roumanian boundary is to be drawn, will be found in Protocol No. 15. It will be seen that the point is to be so fixed as to allow of the construction of a bridge across the Danube to unite the two Roumanian shores.

In the Article of the Treaty itself the principle is laid down that the Commission shall take into consideration the necessity for the Sultan to be able to defend the Balkan frontiers of Eastern Roumelia.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, and they doubt not in that of other Powers, this principle involves the demarcation of the Balkan frontier in such a manner as will give to the Turkish forces stationed in Eastern Roumelia a good military position, without the necessity of throwing their out-posts across the boundary in case they should consider themselves threatened.

In discussing all questions of this nature with your colleagues I need not say that you should show a conciliatory disposition. Her Majesty's Government have no desire to dispute about points of trifling importance; their object is that the matter should be so settled as to avoid the risk of petty and annoying questions arising in the future, which might give rise to complications, or embitter disputes already existing. It has been suggested by the French Government that disputed points should be settled by a majority of the Commissioners; but it is scarcely to be hoped that the Russian Government will be willing to agree to this proposal. They have, in fact, expressed an opinion that in cases where the Commission is not unanimous reference should be made to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers at Constantinople.

I can only instruct you to endeavour, as far as possible, to avoid the loss of time which such references may occasion, by suggesting or supporting any compromises between conflicting opinions which may appear to you equitable and expedient.

It is possible that on matters of detail, at least, the dissentient Commissioners may be ready to accept the opinion of the majority.

Should, however, any proposal be made in the Commission which, in your opinion, could entail material injustice to one of the parties, or could defeat in any important particular the intentions of the Contracting Powers, it will, of course, be your duty to combat such a proposal, to refer the matter to me and to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and to endeavour to obtain for your counter-proposition the support of the majority of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 154 B.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 9, 1878.*

IT is understood that after the first days of November the work of the Commission of which you are a member will be interrupted, in consequence of the impossibility of carrying on surveying operations in the country to be examined during the winter months. It is to be presumed that the Commissioners will then return to Constantinople, and will resume their labours in the ensuing spring. I shall be glad to receive from you suggestions as to the manner in which the services of the officers under your directions might be utilized during the winter, and, subject to the adoption of such suggestions, I consider that you and a considerable portion of your staff might return to England, leaving your plans and instruments in safe custody at Constantinople until the resumption of the Commission in April next.

It seems also possible that, when once the boundary has been marked out, the completion of the survey might be left to one or more of your assistants, in concert with other officers, the Commissioners only meeting again for the verification of the plans and maps after their completion.

Upon these points you will, doubtless, be able later to make more definite proposals, in regard both to dates and to the details of arrangements. I have confidence in your having a due regard to public economy in all such questions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 155.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 108. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, August 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a number of Christian Abazians belonging to last year's emigration, who are still at Samsoon, have addressed lately a petition to the Russian Embassy at Constantinople begging to be repatriated.

They state in this petition that they have often asked the Ottoman authorities to be allowed to return to their native land, but that instead of their request being granted, they have been subjected to vexations, and have been lately threatened with imprisonment unless they signed a declaration to the effect that they are satisfied to remain in Turkey.

I have reason to believe that there is exaggeration in the complaint of the Abazians, who had been ordered to proceed to inland districts, and that the arrangements which are being made by the Porte for their settlement in the vicinity of Samsoon will dissipate their dissatisfaction.

About 3,000 emigrants from Bulgaria, mostly Nogais, had arrived at Samsoon on their way to the interior of Anatolia, and as many more were expected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 156.

Vice-Consul Billiotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 109. Political.)
Trebizond, August 28, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 106 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report that, as soon as the Armenian Roman Catholic Priest at Batoum received my letter, he started for the camp of the Laz, and delivered to the Beys my message, which affected them deeply.

They departed immediately for Batoum to meet Yussuf Pasha, the Governor-General of Trebizond, and the result of these two interviews seems to be, according to private information from Batoum, their having given up all intention to resist the Russian occupation. Perhaps the Russian agents had also prepared the Laz to this change of opinion.

However it may be, I am of opinion that the question of the surrender of Batoum, which was so threatening only a few days ago, may be considered now as an incident of little importance.

Even supposing that the intention of not fighting the Russians is not so widespread as it is represented to be, the unanimity which had prevailed hitherto amongst the Laz being at an end, no serious resistance can be opposed by the war party that may be still in existence.

But in order to avoid unforeseen complications, it would be advisable to remove, without delay, such of the Laz as have decided to emigrate.

We have here no positive information with respect to their numbers, although it is stated that nearly the whole population of the Tsolokso and Adjara districts are removing to Batoum for embarkation. There is no doubt, however, that 500 or 600 families of Circassians, who had settled in the district of Batoum after the Crimean war, will be amongst the first to depart.

Yussuf Pasha has telegraphed here to inquire whether there were available lands for emigrants, and received a negative answer.

It would seem that last week the Laz had taken possession of seventeen barges laden with Government munitions, which were descending the Tsurukso River, but which they released next day. Dervish Pasha having in the meantime sent a small force against them, this circumstance created such an ill-feeling that the Laz decided to attack Batoum on the night of the 22nd instant. The danger was luckily averted by Dervish Pasha, who heard of their intention, having kept all the troops under arms during the whole night. Yussuf Pasha arrived next day.

The country between Artwin and Kheba, half-way to Batoum, was quiet, it would seem, owing to the work of Russian agents.

In the night of the 25th, a messenger having arrived from the Russian camp, four Turkish officers, amongst whom were the two Commissioners of the Porte, I am told, were conveyed early next morning by the transport "Kaissarieh" to Poti. The object of their mission is not known at Trebizond.

It would seem that when they were taking down the guns from the forts of Batoum the Turkish soldiers were actually shedding tears and lamenting.

I have been told by eye-witnesses that these guns were embarked on board the frigate "Muhbiri Sunur," which, however, on her arrival here, Monday last, landed only twenty field guns, five mortars, sixty horses, munitions, and military stores, and the "Zileh" battalion, numbering 400 men. Yesterday the "Kaissarieh" brought here the "Anassia" battalion, consisting of 380 rank and file, and numerous stores.

The torpedoes in the port of Batoum have been raised by order of Vice-Admiral Arif Pasha, and embarked on board one of the vessels of war.

The means of transport are quite deficient; there are only the two vessels mentioned above an iron-clad, which has not yet made her appearance here, and a tug.

Eight small country boats have been taken in tow by the "Muhbiri Sunur" to help in the transport, but it is not with so scanty means that the evacuation of Batoum and the removal of the emigrants may take place in a fortnight. It is rumoured, however, that steamers have been despatched from Constantinople to Batoum.

I have forwarded a few hours ago to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the information contained in this despatch in a telegram worded as follows:—

"According to private information from Batoum, Yussuf Pasha's exertions, and my communication through Armenian priest, have induced Laz to renounce all intention to resist Russian occupation. Number of emigrants unknown, but said to be rather important. Two battalions, twenty field guns, five mortars, and numerous military stores, arrived yesterday and day before. Deficiency in transport."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 157.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 59. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, August 29, 1878.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to report to your Lordship that there appears to be very little doubt that M. Perrod, Italian Consul for Bosnia, has met with an untimely death while returning to his post after a short leave of absence.

On the 29th ultimo he started from Brcka, on the Save, for Serajevo in a cart, and has not since been heard of. Owing to the late Mussulman revolt and the entry of the Austrian troops into Bosnia, M. Usigli, the Acting Consul, had not been able hitherto to institute any inquiries on the subject, but he has to-day received intelligence from Brood that M. Perrod is said to have been murdered by the Turks. The report still requires confirmation, but I fear there is little chance of its being refuted after such a lapse of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 158.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 60. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, August 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, it being reported that insurgent Mahommedans were concentrating at Glasinac, an Austrian force was sent forward, the end of last week, to disperse them, but has returned to Serajevo without having encountered any hostile parties.

There are undoubtedly small bands of armed Turks all over the country; even the Brood road can scarcely be considered safe, nor is the road to Mostar yet open; but the only important gathering of Mussulmans appears to be in the valley of the Spreca, in the Sandjak of Zvornik, under the command of the Mufti of Teslidja. The Austrian military authorities, who are without doubt inclined to exaggerate the resistance made by the Turks, talk of 15,000 being assembled in that neighbourhood, but I should doubt there being more than a third of that number. I believe that a vigorous attack will be shortly made on them. As far as I can learn, it is still uncertain whether the Austrian troops will advance beyond the Drina this year.

All Ottoman soldiers in the country—Osmanlis as well as Bosniacs, officers and privates—whom the Austrians have been able to apprehend, have been sent as prisoners to Brood, no distinction being made between those who did and those who did not take part in the late resistance.

Hadji Yamakovic, Hadji Kaukgee, and several others of the instigators and leaders of the late Mussulman revolt, have been arrested, tried, and hung during the past week. They all met their death with the greatest stoicism and courage. In spite of his wound, Hadji Loyo effected his escape from Serajevo two days before the arrival of the Austrians, and will probably not be captured.

The chief culprits having been executed, I believe that, were a general amnesty now proclaimed to all who had taken part in the revolt, with the exception, perhaps, of Hadji Loyo and the Mufti of Teslidja, it would have a most beneficial result. At the present moment no Mussulman feels safe, and there are numbers of those who were made to take part in the resistance to the Austrians against their will who are still concealed in the hills, and are afraid to return to their houses. Unless the Austrian Government endeavours to conciliate the Moslem population of the province, it will have interminable difficulty in restoring order and tranquillity, and it cannot

set itself to the task too soon, as late proceedings have done much to alienate the good-will of all Mussulmans.

The Mussulman landowners also have a great grievance in the treatment they experience at the hands of the Christian peasants. These latter pillage with impunity the farm-houses, gardens, and fields of their masters; refuse to give them the share of the produce to which they are, at all events, entitled, until some readjustment of the agrarian question, and neglect the culture of the land. Add to this the drain on the country of cattle, grain, and hay to supply the Austrian army with food and forage, and future prospects are anything but encouraging. As yet there is no civil administration to regulate these and other matters, nor any tribunals to which injured parties can apply for redress. All Turkish institutions have been upset, and there is nothing as yet to replace them. A kind of Municipal Council has been formed, consisting of six Orthodox, four Mussulman, three Catholic, and three Jewish members, presided over by Mustafa Bey, the son of Fazli Pasha, with Kosta Cukovic, an Orthodox Christian, as Vice-President, but its chief occupation at present appears to be to meet the multifarious demands of the military authorities.

The Austrian military organization seems to be very defective. There is a scarcity of food, a scarcity of medicines, and, above all, a scarcity of money. If the army is to live upon the province which has been devastated and impoverished by three years of insurrection and war, the Austrian occupation will be rather a curse than a benefit to the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 159.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No 34. Political.) *Ragusa, August 31, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 23rd instant, authorizing me to communicate to the Prince of Montenegro the substance of Mehemet Ali Pasha's statement, that he was determined to perform his mission for carrying out the Articles of the Treaty of Berlin with respect to Montenegro in a loyal and conciliating manner, I have the honour to transmit, herewith, copy of the reply I have received to my communication on the subject to M. Duby, the Prince's Private Secretary.

M. Duby therein also refers to the person alluded to in my telegram to your Lordship of the 28th instant, who, as reported, is representing himself to be intrusted with a mission from the Prince.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 159.

M. Duby to Consul St. John.

Cettinje, August 30, 1878.

My dear Mr. St. John,

YOUR letter of the 24th reached me too late on the 26th for a reply by the return mail.

I delivered to His Highness the message which Lord Salisbury sent him through you from Mehemet Ali Pasha. He was very much pleased with it.

The Mushir arrived at Prisrend about the 25th, and telegraphed at once to the Prince, who has sent some officials to the frontier towards Gusinje to meet him, and take preliminary steps about the exchange of territories. It is intended that a high official of the State shall go to Podgoritza to settle with Mehemet Ali Pasha when he has arrived there.

I telegraphed to you on Tuesday night, at the Prince's request. I received from Mr. Stillman information that he had quite lately seen in Paris a young man, calling himself Ivanovich or Ivanivich, or such name, on the hotel books, wearing the Montenegrin dress and decoration, and giving himself out as intrusted with a mission from the Prince. He pretended to have seen Lord Salisbury, Mr. Gladstone, and other eminent persons.

I spoke to the Prince about it, and he requested me at once to send you the telegram, which you must have received. Perhaps there is not much in it, save a vain foolish freak of some young Servian—a Montenegrin it cannot be; but as it may be some swindling affair, or some attempt to impose on Her Majesty's Government, His Highness wishes to enter at once his formal contradiction. He never sent any agent to England, and never heard of the man before this, and hopes you will kindly have taken steps to let the truth be known in London.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) R. DUBY,
Secretary to His Highness Prince Nicholas I.

No. 160.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 35. Political.) *Ragusa, September 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that General Poppenheim, with 3,500 men (composing the 74th Regiment of the line on a war footing), 14 field pieces, and 12 mountain guns, left Ragusa this morning at daybreak, and, marching across the frontier, took possession of Drieno, a small place on the road to Trebinje, which, as pre-arranged, was, on his arrival, at once handed over to him by about 200 Turkish regulars, who, in their turn, crossed the frontier on to Austrian territory, retaining their arms and baggage.

The road leading to Drieno would have presented great obstacles to the army of occupation had a resistance been offered either by regular troops or by insurgents; but, fortunately for the Austrians, the former held all the forts.

The Turks, being menaced by the insurgents, on whom they were forbidden to fire, were but too glad to escape a conflict—a contingency which the Porte was particularly anxious should be avoided.

General Poppenheim's present position now enables him to reach in about half an hour the plain leading to Trebinje. Once there, he will be able to deploy his men and bring his guns to bear in any wished-for direction.

General Jovanovich is reported to be at Bilek, about six hours' march from Trebinje, which, if true, accounts for the sudden departure of General Poppenheim from Ragusa.

In the event of a resistance being made at Trebinje (of which there is every probability), the two Generals will make a simultaneous attack from different quarters.

There is no doubt that the place will fall without much difficulty, but it is apprehended that, owing to the fanaticism and determination on the part of the inhabitants to oppose the invaders, much blood will be shed.

Suleiman Pasha is still there, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Austrians, whose entrance he wishes to facilitate—a fact which goes far to refute the assertion that the Turks are conniving at the insurrection.

He might easily have left some time since, and his departure would have been hailed with joy by the insurgents had not two paramount reasons determined him to hold out to the very last: one was to keep the Government arms and provisions from the insurgents, and the other to protect the sick and wounded, who, there is no doubt, would all have been massacred had he abandoned them to their fate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 161.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 754.) *St. Petersburgh, September 4, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 740 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of this day publishes officially the following appointments:—

M. Gonine, Consul-General at Ragusa, to be Minister Resident in Montenegro.

Baron Dimitri Stuart, Consul-General at Bucharest, to be Minister Resident the same post.

M. Alexandre Persiani, Consul-General at Belgrade, to be Minister Resident at the same post; and

M. Jean Lot, to be Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General in Egypt.

Prince Schorteleff, who was for some time Secretary to General Ignatieff, and who is thoroughly imbued with his principles, is to be appointed Russian Consul at Philippopolis, and will assist Colonel Schepeloff, the Russian member of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

Prince Schorteleff, who is said to have been specially selected by the Emperor himself, and whose nomination is undoubtedly due to the influence of General Ignatieff, leaves St. Petersburgh to-day, and will call at Livadia for instructions before proceeding to his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 162.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 758.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, September 4, 1878.

THE inclosed translation, by Mr. Michell, of a letter from Bourgas lately published in the "Golos," contains a complete confirmation, by a Russian witness, of the outrages to which the Mussulman population are exposed, and also distinctly admits that the Russian military authorities do not take serious measures to prevent the atrocities which are being daily committed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Extract from the "Golos."

(Translation.)

THE correspondent of the "Golos" at Bourgas writes from that place under date of the 18th August as follows:—

"I must again revert to a matter which I considered had been finally dealt with, the tyranny and lawlessness exercised by the Bulgarians over the Turks, a tyranny which is already commencing to pass all limits. Even the authorities are not always in a position to cope with the evil.

"There are only three large Turkish villages at present in the vicinity of Bourgas; the remainder have entirely disappeared since the outbreak of hostilities. During the night of the 14th August a raid was made on Kara-Abbalier, one of these villages, by a band of about 150 Bulgarians from the villages of Karshoff, Kurli, and Tcharlik. The marauders were armed with Henri-Martini rifles, and marshalled by sundry Ivanoviteheş, Giorgiviteheş, and Stamatoviteheş. After depriving the defenceless Turks of their grain, their only means of subsistence, these robbers committed various acts of violence and then disappeared. In this way a whole village was left without any means of support; and this is not the first instance of such spoliation. In June last the same village was visited by these Bulgars, who drove off the whole stock of Turkish cattle, consisting of 185 oxen and 2,000 sheep. Moreover, several Turkish houses were utterly destroyed; four Turks were beaten and tortured almost to death, and many Turkish women were violated. All that time the Bulgarian administration paid no attention to the complaints made by the Turks, and it was only when the matter came under the notice of General Saloff, Chief of the 24th Division of Infantry, and General Bodisko, Governor of Bourgas, that measures were adopted and about twenty Bulgarians arrested. Rumour asserts, however, that all these men were set at liberty without having once been confronted with the sufferers. This is confirmed by the fact that nearly all the perpetrators of the acts of violence committed in June last were likewise implicated in the raid of the 15th August.

"Accounts of occurrences similar to the above are being received from all quarters. It is time to put a stop to all this. In the contrary case it will be difficult to answer for the consequences."

(Signed) BERTENSON.

No. 162[a].

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 634.)
My Lord,

Vienna, September 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, to your Lordship, the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 162[a].

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 2.)
Sir,

Brod, September 2, 1878.

IN Vienna I had the honour of sketching the operations of the Austrian army of occupation, but the information I obtained was scant, and I knew little more than the fact that Mostar, the capital of Herzegovina, fell into the hands of the Austrians in four days, and that Serajevo was captured at the point of the bayonet in twenty-one days.* Banjaluka meantime had received the Austrian troops with open arms, though at a latter date insurgents from without brought about a rising of townsmen which was quickly repressed. Thus the three chief towns of the two Turkish provinces fell into the hands of the Austrian troops, and it may be said that Novi-Bazar and perhaps Trebigny were the only towns of importance remaining under Mussulman rule; all this had been brought about by the four divisions originally mobilized, viz., the 6th, 7th, 18th, and 20th, yet the position of affairs caused grave anxiety to the Government. The troops were used up and their was no reserve. In place of being left in a position whence he could take command of his army, such as Brod or Agram, the Commander-in-chief had been ordered to march with the central column, which was moved along the Bosna Valley, and in conjunction with the right column from Banjaluka, had captured Serajevo. This officer was without means of rapid communication, either with the 18th Division at Mostar or with the left column, which consisted of a weak brigade, and which was supposed to cover the Servian frontier. Vienna was the real seat of command, and the campaign was worked out by a War Council presided over by His Majesty.

When it was discovered that the Bosniacs and a portion of the Sultan's army intended to resist, the 36th Division received an order to mobilize, and the reverses met with by General Szapary led to the 1st and 4th Divisions passing in a war footing; but the case was so urgent that the three last-named divisions had to bury portion of their force to the seat of war on a peace footing, the reservists joining the active battalions at a later date. Next the 14th and the 31st (Pest) Division were mobilized, and at nearly the same date two more (the 13th Pest and 33rd Comorn ?)

In place of four divisions, as was at first intended, three corps and the 18th Division form the army of invasion, with a fourth corps in reserve, the whole commanded by General Philippovitz.

General Bienerth commands the corps consisting of the 13th and 31st Divisions; his troops will be assembled on the banks of the Save to force a passage in about twelve days. The probable points of passage are Samac (now fortified by the insurgents) and Raca. General Szapary, now in a defensive position at Doboj, from which he will issue to-day or to-morrow, to obtain room, is just receiving the 1st and 4th Divisions, but having with him a brigade of the 20th Division, will send one brigade of the 1st Division to Serajevo.

General Szapary reports that the insurgents have entrenchments with guns on the heights of Sethica to his left, and also on the heights of Lipac and Pridolo centre and right, that the enemy is in strength with some Turkish regular troops. If my official

* The railway between Novi and Banjaluka is not yet in working order.

permission to join the Austrian army as Military Attaché arrives in time, I shall be able to afford reliable information on this anomaly. The insurgents are close to the highway between Brod and Serajevo, right and left of Doboj; their offensive movement was intended to threaten this important road, yet the continuous chain of Austrian provision waggons is never molested.

General Ramberg expressed to me his surprise at this. This officer commands the reserve or corps at this place, Brod, and the Duke of Wurtemburg commands the 13th Army Corps now at Serajevo. That fresh distributions of divisions in the various corps will be made is more than probable. I observed yesterday a regiment of the 14th Division from Presburg marching viâ Gradisca on Banjaluka; but to what corps this regiment will belong to I have no idea.

It only remains to mention that the Agram Brigade of Hoverds, which by order of the Emperor is permitted to leave the Empire in the same way that the Dalmatian Landwehr has leave to cross the frontier, is on both banks of the river Save between Gradisca and Brod, about 4,500 strong.

I now return to the portion of the campaign which has not been a success, though the insurgent Bosniacs are unable to boast of having caused the invader any really serious loss.

I am informed by eye-witnesses that the day General Philippovitz established his head-quarters at Derventa, Turkish mounted officers took advantage of the absence of outposts and took stock of the army. At the same moment deputations were congratulating the Field-Marshal on his advent.

A very heavy storm prevented the march of the Austrians next day, but a squadron of cavalry moved forward to gain information regarding supplies, roads, and bridges, &c. The fate of this squadron is well known, but many think that, had the Austrian infantry marched, it would have met with a like reception as part of a concerted plan.*

General Szapary crossed the Save by a pontoon bridge at Samac. The Commander-in-chief took one of his brigades, and with the other he met with the very inacties which caused the loss of life to the cavalry squadron. Still he was able to push on to near Dol Tuzla; but what had happened? The insurgents had actually seized his bridge at Samac, and by necessity he fell back on Doboj, where he has been more or less sieged for three weeks.†

All this proves that the Bosniacs, with renegade Turks, had a plan, and that it very nearly answered, owing to the Austrian belief in a peaceful occupation. It may be said that the loss of Szapary's bridge was a fortunate chance which placed the remnant of his brigade in the one strategical position from which it could save the main line of Austrian communications.

Now that sufficient time has elapsed to mobilize fresh troops, the critical moment has passed, but I do not imagine the two newly-formed corps intended to act against Szapary's enemy will be in movement before the 14th of this month; and I am now of opinion that the district of Novi-Bazar will remain untouched by the Austrians till next spring.

On this I shall be able to form a better opinion from Serajevo. My present intention is to visit General Szapary's command before making my way to the head-quarters of the Commander-in-chief.

There seems to be some sickness amongst the men—a kind of fever from exposure and the result of eating unripe fruit; but, on the whole, there is no cause for complaint. Nor has the loss of life in action been equal to the estimate naturally following perusal of the official despatches.

The floating ambulances on the Save are admirable, and are by no means overworked.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

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* The pontoon bridge over Save was not destroyed by storm, but a trestle bridge constructed by engineers over small stream was carried away.

† The Austrians on the left bank of Save recovered half.

No. 163.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received September 10.)

Admiralty, September 9, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that in a letter, dated the 22nd August last, from Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, he reports that he has received despatches from Captain Cator, of Her Majesty's ship "Defence," at Suda Bay, and in his report of proceedings, dated the 11th August, Captain Cator states: "There have been no disturbances here lately and affairs are quiet, the ships present at this anchorage being Her Majesty's gun-boat 'Coquette,' four Turkish ironclads, one sloop, and one dispatch vessel, the French gun-vessel 'Bisson' being at anchor off Khania."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 164.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 9, 1878.*

MAJOR RIPP, the senior of the Austrian delimitation delegates, has a discretionary authority to enable him to decide at Constantinople whether there should be one Commissioner or two for Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

The Roumanians are anxious that the Dobrudscha boundary should be traced as soon as possible, but it is thought that this should occupy a very short time, and even if two Commissioners, they should unite for the tracing of the Balkan frontier, where Count Andrassy thinks there is no time to lose, as winter sets in early in those regions.

With regard to meeting of Montenegrin Boundary Commission, Count Andrassy considers that it cannot possibly take place in the present excited state of the populations, and he maintains this opinion at St. Petersburgh.

He also wishes the decision of the majority of the Commissioners to be final, reference being only made to the Embassies at Constantinople in case of equality of votes. The Russian Government object to this, but Count Andrassy thinks that if some such agreement is not come to, the proceedings of the Commissioners will be indefinitely protracted.

No. 165.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 821.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 9, 1878.*

I HAVE communicated your telegram of yesterday to the Grand Vizier. He assures me that the reforms you have suggested will be accepted, although difficulties may present themselves in putting one or two things into execution at once. He has promised to give me a written answer immediately. I am pressing the matter as much as I possibly can.

Please send me an answer to my telegram No. 805 about exchange of declarations.

No. 166.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 822.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 9, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Batoum was surrendered two days ago to the Russians, and that everything went off quietly.

No. 167.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 823. Very Confidential.) *Constantinople, September 9, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

SULTAN is very much alarmed at present state of affairs in Bosnia and Albania and especially at the depreciation of paper-money, which he believes will soon lead to serious disturbances in capital and the provinces.

He directed a long letter to be written me on this subject this morning, and the Grand Vizier received one from His Majesty when I was with him.

His Majesty implores Her Majesty's Government to help him to obtain a loan. If they cannot, he wishes to know, in order to endeavour to make other arrangements. I have told him that you have taken the matter into serious consideration, but that I cannot yet give him any decided answer. There may be exaggeration in his fears, but there is no doubt that there is great public discontent, and that murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha, and the events taking place in Bosnia and Albania, are adding to excitement.

The Council of Ministers has decided upon accepting the Convention as proposed by Count Andrassy, but the Sultan still withholds his sanction.

I am afraid that unless something be done to remedy the present state of affairs the Sultan may have another nervous attack such as he experienced some time ago.

No. 168.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 223.) *Vienna, September 10, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received following telegram from Mr. Freeman yesterday :—

"Mahommedan insurrection on the increase; whole of the east of Bosnia in revolt. Arms and ammunition said still to arrive viâ Mitrovitza. Communications with Brood frequently interrupted, and with Mostar not yet established. No chance of speedy pacification of the country unless a milder policy be pursued towards the Mahommedans."

No. 169.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 224.) *Vienna, September 10, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE death of Mehemed Ali has produced an impression here likely to be detrimental to the interests of Turkey if the Porte does not at once take measures to establish its authority in Albania.

Nasri Pasha, Governor of the district of Novi-Bazar, is believed here to be favouring the organization of resistance against Austria; and if the Albanian league is allowed to acquire strength in the *enclave*, it is probable that the Austrians, after occupying that district, may assume its administration as in the rest of Bosnia, on the plea that the Porte had lost all authority, and that the Government of the district could not be left in the hands of the league.

No. 170.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 161.) *St. Petersburgh September 10, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to a request made on the 6th instant that he would remind M. de Giers that Her Majesty's Government were still waiting for reply to my note of the 26th ultimo respecting Afghan, M. de Mehikoff writes that answer left Livadia on the 8th, and that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London has instructions to furnish Her Majesty's Government with the desired explanations.

No. 171.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 10, 1878.*
(Confidential.)

IN answer to German Circular of the 2nd instant, Italian Government have expressed their willingness to join Signatory Powers in any measure they may "unanimously" agree upon to urge on the Porte the necessity of carrying out provisions of the Treaty.

Italian Government finds itself in an awkward position; they cannot further interests of Austria; on the other hand, they fear Turkish procrastination may lead to the annexation of Turkish provinces by Austria; they must at the same time countenance claims of Greece.

Italian Government attach great importance to the action of Her Majesty's Government in this matter.

No. 172.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 10, 1878, 5 P.M.*
(Confidential.)

IN case the Bulgarian Boundary Commission should meet before Colonel Home's arrival, Lieutenant Chermside should know that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Commission should commence by the settlement of the portion of boundary which defines the territory ceded to Roumania on the north-east of the new Principality, and that the Balkan frontier should be left to the last.

No. 173.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 10, 1878, 3:30 P.M.*

I QUITE approve of Assistant-Commissioner going to Philippopolis. Remind him that it would be profoundly inconvenient to Her Majesty's Government if he got murdered.

No. 174.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 10, 1878.*

INQUIRE of Government to which you are accredited whether they see any objection to Commission for Organization of Eastern Roumelia sitting at Philippopolis. Her Majesty's Government are much in favour of it as likely to produce earlier pacification of district.

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* A similar telegram was sent to Mr. Macdonell.

No. 175.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government having been applied to to join in identic note pressing on Turkey observance of Treaty of Berlin, have replied that sufficient time since ratification of Treaty has not passed to justify a remonstrance; nor was there at present any evidence of neglect on the part of the Porte to observe its engagements sufficient to deserve so severe a treatment.

No. 176.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 473.) *Foreign Office, September* 7, 1878.

Sir,

I LEARN from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh that the Russian Government are opposed to the postponement of the meeting of the Commission for defining the frontier of Montenegro beyond the 13th instant, alleging that the troubles on the Montenegrin frontier render an early date for the meeting desirable.

Mr. Plunkett adds that the Russian Government do not agree with the Austrian Government that one Commission would suffice to define the boundaries of both Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

I have accordingly to instruct your Excellency to ascertain, if possible, what course it is the intention of the Austrian Government to pursue with reference to these two points, in view of the attitude assumed by the Russian Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 177.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 474 A.) *Foreign Office, September* 7, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT for your Excellency's information a copy of a despatch to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, reporting the language which I held to-day to the German Chargé d'Affaires in regard to the proposal of his Government for an identic representation to the Porte in regard to the non-execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I saw the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires this afternoon, and informed him of the sense in which I had spoken to Baron Brincken.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 178.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 475.) *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 625 of the 3rd instant, I have to express to you my approval of your having communicated to Count Andrassy and Baron Orczy the substance of the information received from Her Majesty's Consul at Bosna-Serai respecting the harsh proceedings of the Austrian Commanders towards the Ottoman population.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

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[a] Similar telegrams were sent to Sir H. Elliot, Mr. Macdonell, and Mr. Plunkett.

No. 179.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 579 A.) *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1878.

Sir,

THE French Ambassador called at the Foreign Office on the 7th instant, and, after informing me that his Government had received from the German Ambassador at Paris a proposal that the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople should address an identic or simultaneous note to the Porte, insisting on steps being taken by the Turkish Government to put in execution the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, his Excellency observed that although the French Government considered it extremely desirable that the stipulations of the Treaty should be promptly put into execution, they were unwilling to make any reply to the proposal of the German Government without, in the first place, ascertaining the views of Her Majesty's Government; and his Excellency, therefore, requested me to be so good as to inform him in what manner Her Majesty's Government regarded the German proposal, in order that he might acquaint his Government.

I assured the Marquis d'Harcourt that I would lose no time in placing his Excellency in possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government on this subject; and I now transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a note which I consequently addressed to his Excellency on the 9th instant, containing the substance of the reply which I made to the German Chargé d'Affaires in answer to a similar proposal which he had been instructed by the Imperial Government to make to that of Her Majesty.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 180.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.[a]

(No. 581.) *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct you to ask the French Government whether they see any objection to the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia holding its sittings at Philippopolis. Her Majesty's Government are much in favour of the selection of that city as the place at which the meetings of the Commission should be held, as they believe that such an arrangement would be likely to tend to the speedier pacification of the district.

It is at the same time evident that the duty of administering the finances of Eastern Roumelia, which is cast upon the Commission by the XIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, can only be satisfactorily discharged by an authority resident on the spot.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 181.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 584. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1878.

Sir,

WHEN I saw M. Waddington at Paris on the 4th instant, his language on all matters connected with the Turkish Empire in Europe and Asia was satisfactory. He fully recognized, and even strongly urged, the necessity of resisting the advance of Slav influence, and he protested several times his willingness to assist Her Majesty's Government in obtaining reforms in the administration of Asia Minor, and his freedom from any jealousy as to their action in Syria.

He dwelt a good deal on the state of things in Egypt, claiming for France a fair share in the influence which the new arrangements in regard to the government of that country would give to England. I assured him of the readiness of Her Majesty's

[a] A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Macdonell.

Government to acquiesce in the nomination to some post in the Egyptian Cabinet of any Frenchman whom the Khedive might select.

With respect to Greece M. Waddington disclaimed any intention of assisting her to make war on Turkey, but he made the important reservation that he would not allow the Piræus to be bombarded.

He was very anxious to impress on Her Majesty's Government that he could not submit to the establishment of an Italian protectorate at Tunis. I said that this was a combination which we had not the slightest desire to favour. He then proposed that in order to divert the attention of the Italians from Tunis, England should obtain from Turkey the cession of Tripoli to Italy. I declined to give any kind of encouragement to this idea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 182.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1878.

I HAVE telegraphed to you this day to state that I acquiesce in your proposal that Lord Donoughmore should proceed at once to Philippopolis. I have at the same time requested you to remind him that, from a political point of view, it is very desirable that he should avoid running any unnecessary risks while travelling or residing in the disturbed districts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 183.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 5 of the 23rd ultimo, asking for a decided expression of the views of Her Majesty's Government on the question whether, by Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, the Porte engages to take the advice of the Commission, of which you are a member, on the subject of the modifications to be introduced in the "Réglement Organique" of Crete.

The matter is open to controversy, but I incline to the belief that it was the intention of the Congress that the supervision of the Commission should apply to the administrative reforms to be introduced in Crete, as well as to those to be proposed for other parts of European Turkey.

It should be noted, however, that until the labours of the Turkish Commissions to be employed in drawing up the schemes of reform have resulted in the submission of a Report to the Sultan, the functions of the European Commission in this respect do not come into play.

The question is not, therefore, urgent, and it may be as well to ascertain the views of other Powers before coming to a decision on the interpretation to be given to the Article.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 183 A.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1878.

I HAVE to inform you that the following officers have been appointed to assist you in the work which will devolve upon you as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria:—Captain F. C. H. Clarke, R.A., Captain J. C. Ardagh, R.E., Captain C. W. Murray, 61st Foot, and Lieutenant H. C. Chermside, R.E.

Instructions have been sent by telegraph to Lieutenant Chermside, who is at present in Turkey, to report himself to you upon your arrival at Constantinople, and to represent you, if necessary, in case of the Commission meeting before you arrive.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 183 B.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1878.

I HAVE to inform you that during the time that you are engaged on your duties as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria, you will receive, in addition to your regimental pay, a salary of 1,000*l.* a-year; and that the officers who are appointed to assist you will have salaries, also in addition to their regimental pay, of 150*l.* a-year each, while actively employed on the work of the Commission.

These rates are to be in addition to actual travelling expenses, and to such military allowances as you and your assistants are entitled to by the regulations of the Service.

Four private soldiers of the Royal Engineers have also been ordered to accompany you for surveying purposes, and will receive additional pay at the rate of 4*s.* per day, and free rations of every description, as allowed in the case of those employed on the Asiatic Boundary Commission some years ago.

You are authorized to incur such expenses as may be necessary for interpreters, &c., charging the same in your accounts.

You will draw upon the War Department for such money as may be requisite for all these purposes, and will forward your accounts through this Office to be audited by that Department.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 184.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 11.)

September 10, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

GERMAN Commissioner arrived yesterday. Austrian comes Thursday, and French Saturday. Turkish not yet appointed. Grand Vizier and French Ambassador both in favour of Philippopolis. Latter promised to telegraph to-day for instructions in this sense. Hope this point will be satisfactorily settled at first meeting, which probably takes place on Monday.

No. 185.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 11.)

Scutari, September 10, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

AS my French and Austrian colleagues have been named Commissioners for the demarkation of the Montenegrin frontier, I think it right to say that any attempt to carry out at present the demarkation on the Albanian side would be attended with the greatest danger. A considerable force ought first to be established here to overawe natives.

I have observed since my return an inclination on the part of the Turkish authorities to restrict their intercourse with foreigners. This, I believe, may be misunderstood by the Mahommedans, and become a danger for Christians and foreigners.

No. 186.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, September 11, 1878, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TELEGRAM from Greek Government communicated by Greek Chargé d'Affaires states that, contrary to engagements, Porte is sending Circassians to Thessaly and Epirus.

Is there any truth in this?

No. 187.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, September 11, 1878, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IT is said that Nasri Pasha, Governor of district of Novi-Bazar, is favouring resistance to Austria.

Pray urge that orders to discourage it may be sent to him.

No. 188.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, September 11, 1878, 6·5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PRAY inquire whether the transport of arms and ammunition by the Mitrovitza Railway has been stopped.

It is reported that they continue to arrive in Bosnia by that route.

No. 189.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, September 11, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 422 of the 9th instant, inform Count Andrassy we agree with him as to the impossibility of proceeding at present with the Montenegrin demarkation, and as to the desirability of dealing by majorities.

Also we are of opinion that the Bulgarian Commission had better commence by the Roumelian boundary.

No. 190.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1059.)

Foreign Office, September 11, 1878.

Sir,

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to me a telegram from M. Comnenoulous, of which a copy is inclosed herewith, and in which it is stated that, contrary to its engagements, the Porte is sending Circassians to Thessaly and Epirus.

I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to inquire whether there is any truth in this assertion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 191.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1063.)

Foreign Office, September 11, 1878.

Sir,

IT appears from a telegram received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna that it is believed there that Nasri Pasha, Governor of the district of Novi-Bazar, is favouring the organization of resistance to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia. I have telegraphed to your Excellency, requesting you to urge that orders should be sent to him to discourage opposition to the Austrian troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 192.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1065.)

Foreign Office, September 11, 1878.

Sir,

ACCORDING to a report received by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna from Mr. Freeman, at Bosna-Serai, the Mahommedan insurrection in the province would appear to be on the increase, the whole of the east of Bosnia being in revolt.

Mr. Freeman adds that arms and ammunition are said still to arrive, viâ Mitrovitza.

I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to ascertain whether the transport of arms by the Mitrovitza railway has been prohibited.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 193.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 477.)

Foreign Office, September 11, 1878.

Sir,

THE French Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna must have made a mistake if he is under the impression, as is stated in your Excellency's telegram of the 7th instant, that he has received instructions to invite the Austro-Hungarian Government to join in collective action at Constantinople to press the Porte to carry out promptly the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin. It seems apparent, from his inability to state to you upon the execution of what decisions he was to base his invitations, that this can hardly have been the purport of his instructions; but that it was not of the nature indicated is clear from the fact, that I have received a communication from the French Ambassador here to the effect that no answer would be returned by the French Government to the proposition for a collective representation made by the German Government until they should have learnt the opinion upon the subject entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 194.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 482.) *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 222 of the 9th instant, I have to request you to inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government agree with him in thinking that, in face of the excited state of the Albanian population, it would be impossible for the Montenegrin Boundary Commission to proceed at present with the work of demarcation.

They also concur with him in the opinion that in the various Commissions appointed under the Treaty of Berlin it is desirable that the decision of the majority of the Commissioners should be final, reference only being made to the Embassies at Constantinople in case of equality of votes.

Her Majesty's Government also agree with him in thinking that the Bulgarian Commissioners should commence their work by tracing the new boundary of Roumania.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 195.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 587 A.) *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1878.

Sir,

THE French Ambassador asked me to-day, with reference to his communication of the 7th instant, the substance of which is contained in my despatch No. 579A of yesterday's date, what answer Her Majesty's Government meant to send to the suggestion which had come from Berlin as to a joint remonstrance from the Powers to the Porte respecting the non-execution of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

I said that in our judgment the proposal was inopportune, as the interval which had passed since the Treaty was signed was very brief, and the ground of remonstrance not in all cases clear.

I pointed out to him that, since my reply had been given to the German Chargé d'Affaires, two events had taken place which confirmed the view of Her Majesty's Government. The surrender of Batoum while Erzeroum was still unsurrendered showed that Turkey was more ready to execute the Treaty than Russia, and the death of Mehemet Ali showed that it was impossible to make the Porte responsible for what was taking place on the Montenegrin frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 196.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 332.) *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1878.

Sir,

GENERAL MENABREA called upon me to-day. His Excellency stated that he had heard rumours from a reliable source of the intention of Austria to revive the scheme for dividing the Balkan Peninsula between her and Russia by a line of longitude running in the direction of Salonica.

I stated that no such information had reached Her Majesty's Government, and that there was nothing in the language of the Austrian Government to give the slightest countenance to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 197.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1080.) [B. B.]

Therapia, August 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter which has been addressed and presented to me by several natives of Cyprus residing at Constantinople. I informed them that I would transmit it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 197.

Letter addressed to Sir A. H. Layard by Natives of Cyprus residing at Constantinople.

Constantinople, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Août*, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LES Soussignés, originaires et propriétaires de l'Ile de Chypre, résidant à Constantinople, ont l'honneur de se présenter devant votre Excellence pour lui exprimer la profonde joie qu'ils ont ressentie, d'accord avec tous leurs chers compatriotes, à la nouvelle de la cession de leur île au Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne; ils supplient votre Excellence de vouloir bien agréer l'hommage de leur gratitude envers le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté de tout l'intérêt et de la sollicitude qu'il n'a cessé de témoigner envers leur pays depuis le jour où il en a pris possession.

Sous de pareils auspices les Soussignés voient déjà poindre un avenir prochain de bonheur et de prospérité dans tous les recoins de l'île par un développement graduel de toutes les ressources latentes du sol et de toutes les aptitudes intellectuelles des habitants qui verraient ainsi tous leur vœux accomplis sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté l'auguste Reine Victoria.

Les Soussignés ne perdront jamais de vue que cet heureux résultat sera dû en grande partie aux efforts de votre Excellence pour amener la cession.

De votre, &c.
(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 198.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1082.) *Therapia, August* 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation from an article published in the "Lirakir," an Armenian newspaper, relating to the attempts alleged to be made by Russia to induce the Armenians to leave Turkey for Russian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 198.

Extract from the "Lirakir" of August $\frac{16}{28}$, 1878.

(Traduction.)

NOUS voyons dans les feuilles Européennes le télégramme suivant envoyé de Tiflis le 18 Août.

"La feuille Arménienne 'Mishag,' publiée à Tiflis, déclare que le Traité conclu entre l'Angleterre et la Sublime Porte est favourable aux races Musulmanes, et onéreux pour les Arméniens, et elle conseille les Arméniens de laisser leur pays et d'émigrer en Russie."

Nous n'avons pas la feuille de "Mishag" sous les yeux pour voir sur quels arguments et sur quels faits est basée l'opinion que le Traité passé entre l'Angleterre et la Turquie sera onéreux pour les Arméniens et seulement avantageux pour les Turcs.

Nous pouvons conclure de l'invitation faite aux Arméniens d'émigrer en Russie que le seul désavantage qu'on puisse trouver dans ce Traité pour les Arméniens est l'idée qui a pu naître d'exciter les Arméniens à une émigration. Nous avons appris qu'il y a quelques mois quelques Arméniens de Russie qui ont jadis servi le Gouvernement Russe, se sont rendus dans l'Arménie Turque et exhortent les Arméniens à une émigration en masse en Russie. Nous pouvons aussi conclure de ce fait que la Russie cherche à attirer à elle les Arméniens des pays qu'elle n'a pas pu conquérir et faire ainsi diminuer le nombre des Arméniens en Arménie, tandis que nous faisons tout notre possible pour l'augmenter.

Ceci suffit pour prouver combien notre politique et celle de la Russie sont diamétralement opposées l'une à l'autre; il y a outre cela une circonstance qu'il ne faut pas perdre de vue.

La tentative des Arméniens d'entreprendre une émigration dans un autre pays aurait, il y a quinze ou vingt ans, été considérée comme une trahison, et le promoteur d'une telle détermination aurait été puni de mort, tellement la Porte considérait une telle émigration comme contraire à ses intérêts. Tandis qu'aujourd'hui les faits ont pris une tournure contraire.

L'émigration en masse des Arméniens dans un pays étranger sera peut-être aujourd'hui considérée comme un grand bienfait par le Gouvernement Ottoman, car il trouverait une grande espace pour placer les milliers d'émigrés Musulmans de Roumélie chassés de leurs pays et n'osant s'y rendre.

Si quelqu'un pouvait persuader les Arméniens de faire place à ces émigrés Musulmans, il acquérerait un droit à la reconnaissance du Gouvernement Ottoman, qui se trouve dans un grand embarras pour les caser, tandis que s'il envoie aujourd'hui un Circassien en Arménie le Gouvernement Ottoman entendra des plaintes et entendra dire: "Ne vaut-il pas mieux que les Arméniens, qui depuis tant de temps ont ennuyé la Porte et l'Europe avec leurs plaintes, aillent s'établir ailleurs, et qu'ils soient tranquilles et laissent la Porte tranquille, et qu'ils laissent les émigrés de Roumélie s'établir a leurs places, d'autant plus que plus le nombre des habitants Musulmans d'une province est grand, plus cette province a la certitude d'être laissée sous l'administration Ottomane?"

Sous ce point de vue, le journal "Mishag" acquiert un titre à une médaille de satisfaction de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman; car en cherchant à faire du tort à la Porte, elle lui rend un service peut-être a son insu.

Si cependant le "Mishag" peut affirmer que dans cette question les intérêts de la Russie et de la Turquie sont les mêmes; c'est-à-dire qu'il convient à toutes les deux que les Arméniens laissent leurs pays aux Turcs et émigrent en Bosnie, nous aurons alors le droit de croire que sur ce point seulement la Turquie et la Bosnie se sont unies et se sont aidées; et alors le "Mishag," au lieu de dire que "le Traité passé entre l'Angleterre et la Turquie sera onéreux pour les Arméniens et avantageux pour les Turcs," aurait été plus dans le vrai s'il disait que "il n'y a rien de plus pernicieux pour les Arméniens qu'un Traité entre la Russie et la Turquie."

No. 190.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 12.*)

(No. 1083.) *Therapia, August* 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE received the copy of a letter which has been addressed by a European gentleman resident at Adrianople to Ahmed Vefyk Pasha. It confirms, I grieve to say, the accounts sent by Acting Consul Calvert of the outrages still committed by the Bulgarians upon the Mussulman population. I have the honour to inclose it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 190.

Resident at Adrianople to Ahmed Vefyk Pasha.

Andrinople, le 21 *Août*, 1878.

Monseigneur,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Altesse des faits graves, qui se passent de nouveau depuis quelques jours dans le Vilayet d'Andrinople.

Dimanche soir 18 courant le village Musulman de Sary Talachman, du Nahié de Tzokia, a été attaqué par les conscrits Bulgares du village Bulgare de Satar Keuy, les femmes et les filles ont été violées, après qu'on les a dépouillées de leur argent et bijoux, et les hommes battus, et les maisons mises en sac.

J'ai vu le Chef Musulman du susdit village qui a été tellement battu qu'il me semble qu'il ne pourra pas survivre; ces misérables, après l'avoir battu l'ont forcé de tenir une lampe, et d'assister au déshonneur de sa fille, âgée de 13 ans.

J'ai vu cette pauvre fille ainsi que d'autres femmes violées par ces misérables; je les ai fait interroger par le Hodja Chakir Effendi, Imam de notre quartier, et je rends ci-jointe leur déposition.

Le 17 du mois courant les villages Musulmans d'Erceler, Kesselik, et Malkotz ont été mis à sac; les habitants, craignant déshonneur et mort, se sont enfuis dans les montagnes, en abandonnant leur bétail, qui leur a été enlevé par les Bulgares.

Je viens d'apprendre que les villages de Kaïblar, Sopsoular, et Ermeni-Mahalessi, se trouvent cernés depuis deux jours par les Bulgares, qui leur demandent une rançon de 300 livres Turques.

A Péteo-Mahalessi, village Bulgare situé à quatre heures de Kirk-Kilissa, dans lequel il y avait dix maisons Turques, les Bulgares ont pillé les habitants, tué le plus grand nombre, et déshonoré toutes les femmes et filles.

Le meurtre, le viol, et le pillage sont comme vous voyez, Altesse, à l'ordre du jour.

M. le Consul de France, auquel j'ai communiqué ces renseignements, m'a dit qu'il en a eu connaissance et qu'il en fera son rapport à son Ambassade aujourd'hui même.

Il m'a demandé de voir les hommes et les femmes du village de Sary Talachman, et je me suis empressé de faire droit à sa demande.

Veuillez noter, Altesse, que depuis quelque temps des agents Russo-Bulgares font des levées en masse dans les villages de la Roumélie-Orientale, et dans le Vilayet d'Andrinople et le bruit court ici, comme à Philippopoli, qu'ils préparent une espèce de manifestation armée pour demander leur annexion à la Bulgarie.

Et comme preuve à l'appui de ce qui précède, je possède l'original de l'ordre que le Gouverneur Russe de Moustapha Pacha a adressé au Conseil Administratif de cette ville, les invitant à l'occuper de l'enrôlement, et désignant les villages qui doivent donner des conscrits.

Ci-jointe, j'ai l'honneur de remettre copie de cet ordre à votre Altesse.

Samedi soir, 17 courant, une première manifestation a eu lieu à Philippopoli devant la résidence du Commissaire Impérial; les manifestants demandaient leur annexion à la Bulgarie, et ils disaient qu'ils sont prêts à verser leur sang une seconde fois! pour ce but.

Inclosure 2 in No. 190.

Order from Russian Commandant of Moustafa Pasha.

Conseil Administratif de Moustafa Pacha,
le 31 *Juillet*, 1878.

A MM. les Primats des villages Cavacli, Costoutza, Bouyouk Monastir, Kioutzouk Koy, Micro Monastiri, Sinapli, &c.

Vous devez, aussitôt ma présente reçue, réunir les gendarmes et les tenir à la disposition de mes délégués en route pour votre village.

D'après un ordre de notre Empereur Alexandre vous devez, d'accord avec mes délégués, procéder au sort des conscrits pour l'armée nationale.

Je vous ordonne en même temps d'agir de manière et par tous les moyens à ce que des jeunes gens appartenant à d'autres nationalités et âgés de 29 à 30 ans s'inscrivent comme volontaires.

En agissant ainsi et avec prudence vous mériterez la bienveillance de notre auguste Empereur Alexandre.

(Signature illegible.)

No. 200.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1085.) *Therapia, August* 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I INCLOSE despatches from Vice-Consul Brophy, giving further accounts of the ill-treatment of Mussulmans and Jews, and of the plunder of Mahommedan villages by the Bulgarians. As M. de Giers has stated to Mr. Plunkett that when cases of this nature are brought to the notice of the Russian authorities by Consular officers justice will be done, I have instructed Mr. Brophy to call the attention of the authorities of Bourgas to such instances of the misconduct of the Bulgarians as he has reported to me when they can be proved by trustworthy evidence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 200.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, August 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 22nd instant I received the following information from some Turkish peasants who had managed to make their way to Bourgas from Kara-Abaliler, Belevren, and Ahlatli, villages situated in the Caza of Bourgas.

On the 20-21st instant about 300 armed Bulgarians attacked the village of Kaibilar, in the Caza of Adrianople, and had already driven off some cattle when they were dispersed by a few Russian soldiers who came up opportunely; thence they proceeded in smaller or larger bands to the following Turkish villages:—

1. Malkochlar, Caza of Adrianople, where they carried off cattle and sheep and plundered the houses.

2. Evnen iMahalé, Caza of Kirk-Kilissa, where they carried off the cattle and sheep and tortured the Imam, Gutchuk Hodja, in order to extort money.

3. Topdjiler, Caza of Hafsa, where they carried off cattle and sheep and all household property, killing one man and wounding three others.

4. Belevren, Caza of Bourgas, where they carried off all the cattle remaining from previous raids, and shot a man called Hussein Oubashi in the shoulder.

5. Youmron Kayn, Caza of Adrianople, where they carried off everything.

6. Kara-Abaliler, Caza of Bourgas, where they drove off all the cattle remaining, and whose inhabitants fled to—

7. Ahlatli Kebir, Caza of Bourgas, which suffered less than the majority of the others, as the presence of a number of Bulgarian employés, engaged in estimating the value of the tithe of grain, restrained the brigands to a certain extent; a man named Cassim Mahmoud was, however, wounded here.

The deserted Turkish villages of Alugünü, Evrenesh-keui, and Denizova, were also fired by the same bands, this being done to prevent the possibility of returning Turkish fugitives again occupying their former homes, and so to put an additional obstacle in the way of their coming back to their country.

The Bulgarians engaged on this organized raid were mostly from the villages of Göktépé, Derekeui, Tchalafk, Kovtchas, Kourshovu, Koula, and Bourgasdjik, all of which I have been before now obliged to report to your Excellency as living upon the spoliation of their Turkish neighbours.

Although I have mentioned no less than eighteen villages as thus either plundering, or being plundered or burnt, the district concerned (south of Bourgas, and on the roads to Kirk-Kilissa and Adrianople) is a comparatively small one, and rather thickly populated, so that the whole of the depredations were easily committed within the space of forty-eight hours.

Although all the above information was given to the Russo-Bulgarian authorities here on the 22nd instant, it was not till to-day and after long discussion that it was decided to send to the villages of this caza (Kara-Abaliler, Belevren, and Ahlatli) no less than six Bulgarian zaptiehs, who are ordered to arrest all the robbers and recover all the stolen property.

At the villages of Ahmatlar, Erikler, and Keshélik, all in the Caza of Kirk-Kilissa, and which were apprehensive of sharing the same fate as their neighbours, two zaptiehs and about fifteen rifles were sent by the (Kirk-Kilissa) authorities to each with a written permission for the Turks to fire upon any plundering Bulgarians, and in consequence of this sensible step these three villages have escaped scot-free, as, though their inhabitants are few in number, the Bulgarian brigands are afraid of facing them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No 200.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, August 24, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that fourteen families from amongst the returning Turkish fugitives left Bourgas yesterday for the town of Aidos and villages in the Caza of Karnabad.

What their treatment in their old homes is likely to be may, perhaps, be surmised from the way in which the Turks remaining in the country are systematically plundered and outraged in the manner related in my despatch of the 22nd instant, and in previous Reports on the same subject.

The Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia are literally furious at the prospect of this country being again inhabited by returning Mussulmans, and declare their intention to prevent it by every means they can employ. The burning of the three Turkish villages reported in my last despatch was, in my opinion, the direct consequence of a report that all the Mussulman fugitives from this district will shortly return here. Unfortunately the authorities of Bourgas seem to be resolved upon abstaining from any such decisive measure as would be calculated to repress either this feeling or the further acts of violence to which it will most certainly lead.

At Yamboli, on the 12th instant, some families of Turks and Jews returning to their homes there were met at the terminus by nearly all the Bulgarians of the town, shouting "Long life to our Tsar Alexander! Away with the Turks and the Jews! Bulgaria for the Bulgarians!"

Two, however, of the leading Bulgarians—and I am glad to be able to record their names—Ivantafyl Murezo and Novatch-Oglilou Marezo, took pity on the refugees, and took them to their own houses. These were soon afterwards surrounded by the populace, men, women, and children, demanding the surrender of the fugitives, and threatening vengeance upon those who sheltered them. The Russian Governor was at last obliged to call out the troops; but as the letter from which I have quoted this information was concluded and sent off while the soldiery were still surrounding the rioters, I am unable to say how the *émeute* ended.

At Slimia the Jews who returned were refused entrance into the town, and obliged to camp out in the vineyards a mile distant.

A few days ago some Jews left Bourgas for Karnabad and Aidos. At the latter town only one family out of four was allowed to remain; at the former all were received, and allotted an open lean-to in which to live, their own houses having been all pulled down or occupied by Russians or Bulgarians; but they have sent back word here to other Jews not to come, as they cannot walk the streets without being insulted, and are constantly the objects of false accusation. "My grandfather is said to have stolen *his* grandfather's oxen, and so *I* go to prison," said one of these Jews to me yesterday.

I venture to state my very strong opinion that the Porte should not send any Mussulman or Jewish fugitives into these districts unless they are accompanied by a Turkish Commissioner of rank, armed with all the necessary powers to act in their behalf; here, in Bourgas, they run few risks but those of insult, an occasional blow,

and starvation; but, in the interior, experience shows that they must expect much worse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 201.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1086. Confidential.) *Therapia, August* 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter, addressed to me by Vice-Consul Brophy, relating to the movement which the Russians are alleged to be getting up amongst the Bulgarians to the south of the Balkans, to prevent the execution of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin with reference to the Constitution of the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.) *Bourgas, August* 25, 1878.

(Extract.)

NO doubt you have already seen some of the protests which the Bulgarians have lately taken into their heads to make against the decisions of the Congress of Berlin. About a fortnight since all the Bulgarian members of the various Councils in the Sandjak of Shumnia were called to that town nominally to select the members of a Court of Appeal, but in reality to put their signature to a ready-made Petition, or rather a virulent diatribe against the separation of Eastern Roumelia from Bulgaria. The paper in question, patronized and promoted by the Russian Governor, was the composition of a certain Ekonomoff, and, as I am told, "demanded," in the name of the Bulgarian "nation," this, that, and the other. Some of the more sensible amongst the Bulgarians observed that they were hardly yet in a position to use such peremptory language; and, finally, I believe, another and milder form of protest was adopted and signed, and a President, two Councillors, and a Secretary appointed to set forth the representations of the Bulgarian nation before the Constantinople Conference of reorganization. The only thing to remark in all this is, that this mania for protesting is really the work of the Russians, and implies a certain amount of unwillingness on their part to leave Roumelia. I am also able to state positively that the Russians are intending to keep for their own use all the grain magazines at Bourgas, which are capable of containing about 40,000 tons of wheat, and refuse to give up even those belonging to the Italian Consular Agent. Wheat, of course, packs close, but 10,000 tons of provisions (of all kinds) would, I fancy, represent eight months' requirements for 50,000 men, or the whole of the force stipulated as comprising the army of occupation for both Bulgaria and Roumelia, and I hardly suppose it likely that Bourgas is to be the sole depôt for all Commissariat orders.

No. 202.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1088. Very Confidential.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT ZICHY called upon me two days ago to ask my opinion as to the course that the Representatives of the Powers should pursue with regard to the Report of the European Commission sent to inquire into the condition of the refugees in the Rhodope districts. His Excellency observed that the Russian Government was a good deal irritated by the proceedings of the Commission in accepting evidence which affected the honour of the Russian army, and which, it declared, was utterly untrustworthy

and calumnious. Count Zichy expressed his opinion that if, as he presumed would be necessary, a meeting of the Representatives was held to consider the Report of the Commission with a view to submitting to our respective Governments such recommendations as we might think fit to found upon it, it would be very desirable not to raise any questions with reference to the charges made against the Russian troops of having been the authors, to a great extent, of the outrages committed upon the Mussulman population, but to confine ourselves to considering what measures could be taken to relieve the sufferings of the refugees and to restore them to their homes.

I expressed my entire concurrence in the view of my Austrian colleague, as it appeared to me that what we had now to consider was, not what had led to the present unfortunate condition of the refugees, but what could be done to save them from perishing from want and exposure.

Count Zichy remarked that after much consideration he was at a loss to know what to propose with this object, as the Russian Government, he had reason to believe, would not consent to the appointment of an International Commission for the protection of the Mussulmans of Roumelia, and that such a Commission would be the only check upon the ill-treatment and outrages to which they were exposed when they attempted to return to their villages.

I agreed with Count Zichy in thinking that the Russian Government would not consent to the appointment of an International Commission in Roumelia, as it had already refused to agree to it in Bulgaria. I suggested that we might obtain a distinct guarantee or pledge from the Russian Ambassador that the refugees who went back to their homes would not be molested, and that, on being satisfied on this point, we might take measures to induce the fugitives to return. With regard to finding them the means of subsistence, I suggested that the Russian authorities might be induced to distribute corn and provisions amongst them from the large depôts that had been formed at Adrianople and Philippopolis out of the confiscated property of the Mussulmans. Count Zichy entirely approved of this suggestion, and agreed to call a meeting of the Representatives for the following Monday, when he would submit it to them. It was further agreed between us that all reference to the causes of the present condition of the Mussulmans in Mount Rhodope which might wound the susceptibilities of our Russian colleague, and give rise to a conflict of opinion, should be carefully avoided.

Count Zichy saw the Russian Ambassador this morning, and informed him of the arrangement to which he had come with me. Prince Labanoff, however, positively refused to attend any meeting, or to take any notice of the Report of the Commission, founding his refusal upon the terms of the Resolution in the 18th Protocol of the Congress at Berlin, which merely authorizes the Plenipotentiaries to instruct the Ambassadors at Constantinople to come to an agreement with the Porte for the immediate dispatch of a European Commission to the districts of Mount Rhodope, "to verify on the spot the serious nature of the facts, and as far as possible to remedy them." The Ambassadors, his Excellency maintained, could not exceed these instructions. It was for the Commission, and not for them, to find the means of relieving and repatriating the refugees, and they had nothing whatever to do with the Report.

Count Zichy represented to Prince Labanoff that if such were the case nothing whatever would come of the labours of the Commission, and the refugees would be left to die of starvation. The Russian Ambassador replied that he was personally quite willing and ready to act upon the suggestions that I had made. He would give his word that he would do his utmost to guarantee the safety of such of the refugees as would return to their villages within the Russian lines, and that he would at once request the Russian authorities in Roumelia to distribute corn amongst them from the depôts at Adrianople and Philippopolis.

Under these circumstances, Count Zichy thought that it would be useless to call a meeting of the Representatives to consider the Report of the Commission, as unanimity could not be expected amongst them. The German Representative would probably not attend, and if he did he would no doubt take the same course as his Russian colleague. I am afraid, therefore, that there is little hope of saving the greater part of the fugitives in the Rhodope districts from infinite suffering and from ultimately perishing, unless the presence at Philippopolis of the International Commission for the organization of the Province of Eastern Roumelia may act as some check upon the proceedings of the Russians and Bulgarians towards the unfortunate Mussulman population, and encourage some of the refugees to return to their villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 203.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1089. Confidential.)

Therapia, September 1, 1878.

My Lord,

AZEEZ PASHA, a Turkish functionary, favourably known to me, and who, your Lordship may recollect, conducted himself remarkably well in Bulgaria when the insurrection broke out there in 1876, called upon me yesterday to tell me that he had been asked by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador whether he would accept the post of Civil Governor of Bosnia, which he was authorized by Count Andrassy to offer to him. The Pasha said that he had replied that he could not do so, being a subject of the Sultan, without the approval and consent of the Grand Vizier. He had consulted his Highness, who saw no objection to his acceptance of the offer made to him, but, on the contrary, thought it well that he should do so. He wished, however, before coming to a decision, to consult me on the subject.

I had already learnt from General Klapka that he had suggested to Count Andrassy that it would be a wise and politic step on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government to conciliate the Mussulmans of Bosnia, and to give them a kind of pledge that their rights and religious institutions should be respected, by naming a Mahommedan as Civil Governor of the province.

I told Azeez Pasha, therefore, that it appeared to me that he would be serving the interests of his country and of his co-religionists by accepting Count Andrassy's proposal, as the Grand Vizier, and, consequently, I presumed, the Sultan, were willing that he should do so.

Azeez Pasha is a member of an ancient Bosnian family, and was recently Governor of the district of Tripoli, in Syria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 204.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1091. Secret.)

Therapia, September 1, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 784 of the 23rd August, Count Zichy, to whom I had spoken about the Mussulman notables, Hadji Arif and Hadji Shaban Aglas, who were imprisoned, and supposed to be about to be condemned to death at Philippopolis, took an opportunity of interceding in their behalf this morning with the Russian Ambassador, and of pointing out to his Excellency the very unfavourable impression that their execution could not fail to produce upon European public opinion, and the lamentable effect that it would have upon the Mussulman population.

Prince Labanoff told my Austrian colleague, most confidentially, that he had appealed to the Emperor to extend his mercy to them, and that he had every reason to hope that His Imperial Majesty would do so, and that their lives would be spared.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 205.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1091.)

Therapia, September 2, 1878.

My Lord,

THE despatch from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, will inform your Lordship that, in violation of all principles of justice and of law, the two Mussulman notables, Hadji Arif and Hadji Shaban Aglas, have been condemned to death by a Russian tribunal.

When it is remembered that these persons returned to their native town, relying on the assurances of the Russian authorities that the refugees who came back to their homes should not be molested, that they are Turkish subjects, that every manner of

attempt has been made to get up evidence upon which to condemn them, that the witnesses against them appear, according to Mr. Calvert's Report, to have an interest in procuring their death, and that the Porte has faithfully carried out its undertaking to amnesty the Bulgarians who had been accused of crime, the proceedings of the Russians seem to me to be capable of no justification, and are to be condemned by every impartial and honest man.

I am informed by a gentleman of entire trustworthiness, that when he spoke to General Todleben about these two Mussulmans a few days ago, the General justified their execution on the ground that Hadji Arif Agha had put four Bulgarian children to death by burying them in the snow. It would now appear that these children are alive.

If these notables are put to death the effect upon the Mussulman population may easily be imagined; but it is probably to strike terror into the Mahommedan refugees, and to prevent them from returning to their homes, that this outrage upon justice and humanity will be committed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopolis, August 30, 1878.

I REGRET to have to report to your Excellency that the public trial of Hadjis Shaban and Arif Aghas took place to-day, and has just terminated (4:30 P.M.) in the condemnation to death of both the accused.

The Court was crowded, and the sentence when pronounced was hailed with marked satisfaction by the audience, mostly composed of Bulgarians.

The trial, as I am informed by several credible persons who were present, was conducted with great unfairness to the accused, and altogether under circumstances most unfavourable to them.

Both in the preliminary secret interrogatories, and in the public trial, the evidence of all the witnesses, and the observations made by the prisoners in their defence, had to be translated from Bulgarian or Turkish into Russian by a Bulgarian interpreter. The witnesses had to sign the Minutes of their evidence without being able to read them, as they were written out in Russian.

In the public trial to-day the prisoners were bullied and silenced every time they offered any exculpatory remark.

They were defended by a Russian Advocate, appointed by the Russian authorities, and who, until yesterday, I am told, had not even read the "Acte d'Accusation," and up to a late hour last evening was bargaining with the friends of the accused as to the amount which, in defiance of all law, he demanded for his services.

One of the chief charges in the indictment was that the retainers of Arif Agha had, on the approach of the Russians last January, murdered, by burying them in the snow, the four children of a Bulgarian of the Karshi-Aka (Rylla) quarter. On the public examination of this witness to-day he was asked to repeat his evidence, and it came out that his children are at this moment still alive; he stated that they had, in fact, been covered up in snow, but that he pulled them out of it before any injury could befall them.

The majority of the witnesses in the trial were former servants of Arif Agha, who, on the flight of the Turkish population, divided his herds and farm belongings among themselves, and from whom, on his return here, he imprudently attempted, by an appeal to the Russo-Bulgarian authorities, to recover his property.

Whatever may be thought of the sentence passed on Hadji Arif Agha, the condemnation of Hadji Shaban Agha is regarded by public opinion, even among a portion of the Bulgarians, as the condemnation of an innocent man; and even in the "Acte d'Accusation," the only offence with which he is charged is that of having occasionally attended the meetings held by the Mussulman notables of Philippopolis in 1876, when the lives of the whole Turkish population were believed to be placed in jeopardy by the revolt of the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 206.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1095.)
Therapia, September 2, 1878.

My Lord,

A WEALTHY and influential Chief from the Pomak districts, named Said Effendi, came to Constantinople last week from Mount Rhodope to communicate to me some information with respect to the condition of his country, and to ask for the interference of Her Majesty's Government to protect its inhabitants from the Russians, and to prevent them from being included within the limits of the new Province of Eastern Roumelia. What passed at my interview with him is so correctly reported in the "Constantinople Messenger," that I inclose the article on the subject published by that newspaper.

I told Said Effendi that Her Majesty's Government could do nothing for him or his people, and that they would be wise to accept the decision of the Congress of Berlin, and not to expose themselves to much suffering and disaster by opposing it. He maintained that, rather than submit to the Russians, the Mussulmans of the districts which were to be included in Eastern Roumelia would perish with their wives and children.

He gave a most eloquent and touching description of the outrages to which the women and girls who had fallen into the hands of the Russians had been exposed, and then appealed to me to say whether it were not better for them to die than to be exposed to such a fate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 206.

Newspaper Extract.

MISSION FROM THE RHODOPE.—ON Friday, Said Effendi, a large landed proprietor, and a man of wealth, great energy, and proportionate influence in the region of the Rhodope, had an audience with Sir Henry Layard at Therapia. Said Effendi pointed out how the southern edge of Eastern Roumelia, coming down to the Arda, encroached upon a territory exclusively Mussulman, which the Russians had never yet occupied, because their attempts to do so had been defeated by the resistance offered by the national army of defence. But the line of boundary fixed by the Treaty of Berlin now gives the Russians a right to occupy the strip of territory between the Arda and the present line of insurgent outposts; and it was evident from the large military reconnaissances which were being made, and from the concentration of troops, that the Russians intended to use force in order to exercise their right of occupation of the district in question. Said Effendi stated that the spirit which had resisted Russian invasion of the Rhodope region for six months still existed, and that, after keeping the invader at arms' length for that period of time, although dependent wholly on local resources, the whole population was more than ever resolved not to suffer the enemy to advance beyond the present line of outposts. The Arda was not the true frontier of Eastern Roumelia; the true frontier was the mountain range forming a bow of which the Arda was the arc. Was it, he asked, wholly impossible that the frontier of Eastern Roumelia might be adjusted so as to suit better the wishes of the people of the country, and save the bloodshed that was otherwise inevitable? In order to justify the invincible antipathy of the Rhodope Mussulmans towards the Russian troops, Said Effendi gave a graphic and most harrowing description of some of the circumstances attending the expulsion of the Mussulmans from the Haskeui plain. He thought that a slight modification of the boundary line would overcome the difficulty; but if the Russians, in pursuit of the right granted to them by the Treaty, did advance in order to occupy the strip of territory between the Pomak outposts and the left bank of the Arda, there would be terrible bloodshed, as the Mussulmans would resist to the utmost. Irrespective of the force under Hidayet Bey, Said Effendi declared he had 30,000 men under arms, and 100,000 in reserve, but without arms. Every man of these was resolved to oppose the entrance of the Russians into the district referred to, and to sacrifice his life if necessary to prevent it.

No. 207.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1096. Confidential.)
Therapia, September 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegraph on the 27th ultimo that the Russian Ambassador had stated to the Grand Vizier that his Government was about to propose to Turkey a definitive Treaty of Peace. I asked his Highness this morning whether he had heard further on the subject from Prince Labanoff, and what was the nature of the proposals of Russia to the Porte. Safvet Pasha replied that the Prince had not spoken to him again on the matter, but that he was expecting to receive before long the draft "projet" of the proposed Treaty, which, as far as he knew, might already be in the hands of the Russian Ambassador. His Highness said that Prince Labanoff had called his attention to the fact that neither in the Treaty of San Stefano, nor in that of Berlin, was there any Article, such as is invariably inserted in Treaties of this kind, declaring that peace had been re-established between the belligerents, and that there should be for the future perpetual friendship between them. Consequently, the state of war between Russia and Turkey still virtually existed. Moreover, Prince Labanoff had stated there were provisions in the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano which had not been modified or cancelled by that of Berlin, and which it was now necessary to confirm by a definitive Treaty.

I inquired of Safvet Pasha whether he knew what the Articles were to which Prince Labanoff alluded. His Highness answered that he had been led to believe that they were principally those relating to the indemnities to be paid by Turkey to Russia; but the Russian Ambassador had not entered into details, merely stating that as soon as the "projet" arrived from St. Petersburgh it would be communicated to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 208.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1097.)
Therapia, September 2, 1878.

My Lord,

PRINCE LABANOFF, accompanied by General Todleben, called upon the Grand Vizier two mornings ago to inform his Highness that unless the Porte took immediate measures to put a stop to the attacks made by the insurgents in the Rhodope districts upon the Russian troops, and to prevent their renewal, it would be necessary for Russia to retain her present army in the Turkish territory it now occupied, and that the embarkation of troops for Russia would at once cease. They observed to his Highness that, according to the Treaty of Berlin, the number of troops to be retained by Russia in the two provinces of Bulgaria and Roumelia was limited to 50,000 men, but that if the insurrection in Mount Rhodope were allowed to continue, and the Russian army were to be exposed to attacks, this force would not be sufficient for the purpose for which it was intended. They then proposed to his Highness that the Porte should take steps without delay to place a body of Turkish regular troops between the Russian lines and those of the insurgents, which would guarantee the Russian forces from any further molestation. They threatened, if the Porte did not comply at once with this demand, to countermand the embarkation of the Russian troops.

Safvet Pasha replied that he would submit the matter to the Council, which he did the same evening, and it was decided to send a brigade of regular troops to occupy a line of country between the Russians and the insurgents. The Seraskier was directed to make the necessary arrangements for sending and placing this force, without loss of time.

I have asked the Grand Vizier whether the Russians demanded the withdrawal of the insurgents from the territory included in the Province of Eastern Roumelia which they now occupied. His Highness replied that neither Prince Labanoff nor General Todleben had said anything on this subject, and he therefore presumed that the *status quo* would be accepted for the present, and that no attempt would be made to drive out the insurgents from their actual positions.

I further inquired from his Highness whether he did not anticipate some opposition on the part of the insurgents to the entry of Turkish troops into the districts which they held. I reminded his Highness that I had warned him, more than once, that Mr. St. Clair and other Europeans were organizing a disciplined force in Mount Rhodope, and had encouraged the Mussulman inhabitants to assume a kind of independence, which might cause considerable embarrassment to the Porte. His Highness said that it would no doubt be necessary to take precautions in sending the troops to the lines which they were to occupy, and the Minister of War was considering whether they should be forwarded by Cavalla or some other place on the Ægean, or through Adrianople; but he did not expect any serious resistance on the part of the insurgents to the presence of a Turkish regular force, especially as it would prevent them from being further molested by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 209.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1099.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 3, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of an article from the Turkish newspaper "Terdjoumani Hakikat," no doubt officially "inspired," which pretends to explain to the Turkish public the history of the English occupation of Cyprus and of the Austrian invasion of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is a curious instance of the way in which the Mussulman population is made to understand such things. As the Turkish papers are now very generally read by the Turks, they have a certain influence upon public opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 209.

Extract from the "Terdjoumani Hakikat" of August 31, 1871.

(Traduction.)

CHYPRE ET BOSNIE.—La question de l'occupation de Chypre et celle de l'occupation de Bosnie paraissent avoir été foncièrement identiques. Cependant les nouvelles données, que des personnes bien informées fournissent sur les points de dissemblance qui se font jour, lorsqu'on vient à les comparer ensemble, sont en vérité dignes de la plus sérieuse considération.

Il paraît que l'Angleterre, s'étant rendue compte du but arrêté de la Russie de garder Kars et Ardahan, et spécialement de faire l'acquisition de Batoum, et étant anxieuse de prendre quelques mesures de précaution, en vue de se mettre en garde contre l'invasion probable, par la Russie, de l'Asie Mineure, ainsi que contre la mise en danger de la route des Indes, avait résolu, d'une manière péremptoire et définitive, d'occuper, avec ou sans le consentement de la Porte, l'Ile de Chypre, et quant à l'idée de proposer pour cela la conclusion d'un Traité d'alliance défensive, elle n'y avait pas même pensé. Il arriva donc que lorsqu'elle manifesta son intention à la Porte en guise de simple avertissement, un Conseil fut tenu sous la présidence de Sa Majesté le Sultan, où Sa Majesté déclara, en premier lieu, que l'occupation de Chypre, faite de la manière annoncée, ne pourra être considérée que comme un acte arbitraire, et qu'ensuite si l'Angleterre se proposait d'expédier des troupes à cette île afin de se prémunir contre les empiétements futurs de la Russie, la Sublime Porte, devant naturellement s'associer à cette intention, Sa Majesté trouvait opportun de conclure préalablement un Traité d'alliance aux conditions qui y furent en effet plus tard stipulées.

Il est vrai que quelques-uns des membres du Conseil firent ressortir l'inconvénient qu'il y avait de se brouiller, pour cela, avec l'Angleterre; cependant, à la suite des délibérations subséquentes et des entrevues spéciales avec son Excellence Sir Austin Layard, l'opportunité de la conclusion du Traité en question fut admise et reconnu de part et d'autre. La question de l'occupation de Bosnie naquit dans des conditions

identiques, c'est-à-dire à l'époque où l'Autriche, de son côté, mettait en avant la nécessité de l'occupation par elle de la Bosnie, en vue de se prémunir contre la formation d'un grand Etat Slave resultant de l'union de la Serbie, du Monténégro et de la Bulgarie, et qu'elle alléguait en même temps la décision du Congrès à cet égard. Sa Majesté le Sultan souleva la même objection que celle par rapport à l'occupation de Chypre. Alors aussi, il y a eu des personnes qui proposèrent l'acceptation pure et simple de la proposition, afin de ne pas altérer nos relations avec l'Autriche; et même, lorsque plus tard le langage officiel de cette Puissance eut acquis une certaine vigueur, la majorité des membres du Conseil avaient un moment manifesté la disposition de se rallier à l'opinion sus-énoncée. Cependant, indépendamment de l'opportunité incontestable qui existe dans la conclusion d'un Traité pour l'occupation de Bosnie, identique à celui qui fut stipulé pour Chypre afin de rendre cette occupation conforme aux intérêts du Gouvernement Ottoman, et bien que l'opportunité en question fût reconnue par le Cabinet Anglais comme étant conforme aux intérêts tant de l'Autriche que de la Turquie, et recommandé comme telle, le Comte Andrassy, en vue de déguiser son arrière-pensée par rapport à l'acquisition définitive de la province en question sous le mantien de l'occupation provisoire, avait déféré d'un jour à l'autre l'acceptation des conclusions Impériales, dont la justesse cependant est évidente. Nous n'avons pas besoin de mettre ici en relief le blâme mérité pour cela par le Comte Andrassy. Les journaux Autrichiens eux-mêmes en font justice. Si la question de la Bosnie n'a pas été résolue comme celle de Chypre au profit des deux parties, on ne saurait s'en prendre qu'à la politique Autrichienne; et quant aux faux-fuyants et aux calomnies et incriminations dont on fait usage pour soutenir cette politique erronée, ils ne sauraient atténuer la force du blâme qui en réjaillit sur le Gouvernement Autrichien.

Depuis l'inexactitude de l'allégation tendant à établir que Sa Majesté le Sultan aurait abandonné et confié les Bosniaques à Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche, jusqu'aux calomnies et incriminations par rapport à ce que la révolte de Bosnie serait due aux instigations de la Porte, tous les faits qui sont ainsi mis en avant d'une manière officielle furent les causes principales du retard qui a lieu dans l'entente tant désirée par tous les deux parties. Sur tout cette effusion de sang qui a lieu en Bosnie est uniquement due à l'imprévoyance de l'Autriche, et l'on ne saurait trop la regretter. Il est vrai que grâce aux intentions sincères et pacifiques de Sa Majesté le Sultan et à la persévérance qu'elle déploie en présence des difficultés multiples qui surgissent de tous côtés, le Gouvernement Autrichien a fini par reconnaître la justesse de l'avis émis par Sa Majesté, et l'on pourrait dire que le côté diplomatique de la question a presque reçu un arrangement définitif. Cependant, qui pourrait prédire la fin des luttes qui se poursuivent en Bosnie et qui n'ont point été provoquées, ainsi qu'il a été officiellement constaté, par les instigations de la Porte, mais par l'état d'anxiété des habitants?

Si les Autrichiens, à l'instar des Anglais, avaient apprécié la justesse des idées de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, la tranquillité aurait été établie en Bosnie jusqu'à présent, et on aurait procédé à l'institution des réformes ainsi qu'on le fait actuellement en Chypre. C'est un grand dommage que pendant que l'Ile de Chypre fait son premier pas dans la voix des réformes tout croule en Bosnie et en Herzégovine.

No. 210.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 1101.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 4, 1878.

I HAVE received the inclosed telegram from the sons of Hadji Shaban and Hadji Arif Aghas, who have been condemned to death by the Russian Tribunal at Philippopolis. A similar telegram has been sent to the French Chargé d'Affaires. I have directed Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to tell them that I had reason to believe that all that is possible has been done to save the lives of their fathers.

I have already informed your Lordship, in my Secret despatch No. 1091 of the 1st September, of the steps taken by Count Zichy, partly at my suggestion, in favour of Hadji Shaban and Arif Aghas. I do not think it desirable to make any communication to General Todleben or the Russian Ambassador with regard to them, as any interference on my part might be prejudicial to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 210.

Telegram addressed to French and English Embassies by the Sons of Hadji Chaban and Arif Agha, dated September 3, 1878.

NOS pères Hadji Chaban et Arif Agha, qui ont gagné une grande honneur à tout le monde un peu de temps avant on les mis en prison à Philippopoli, et après qu'ils furent jugés devant le Tribunal de la Guerre on a communiqué une sentence pour être tués nos pères, et après avoir donné une copie à nos pères hier au soir un Général, de la part du Tribunal, a apporté cette sentence à San Stéfano au Général Todleben pour la ratifier. Nos pères ne connaissent pas la langue Russe, et ils ne peuvent exposer leurs raisons sans drogman et sans avocat, et puisque nos pères n'acceptent pas la susdite sentence injustement faite contre eux, et puisqu'ils feront leurs rapports contre cette injuste sentence, nous prions donc votre Excellence à cette heure d'intervenir au Général Todleben de suspendre la ratification de la susdite sentence jusqu'à faire les rapports.

No. 211.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1103.) *Therapia, September 4, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Gallipoli, giving an account of the assassination of Christians by Mussulmans. If what Mr. Odoni states is trustworthy, it would appear that the Russian authorities are not disinclined to encourage a state of affairs which may enable them to allege as a pretext for remaining in the country the consequences that must ensue should the Mussulman population be left to retaliate upon the Christians for the outrages and massacres to which it has been exposed from them during the time they have been under Russian protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 211.

Mr. Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 31 Août, 1878.

Excellence,

JE suis peiné de devoir vous informer que plusieurs réfugiés Turcs assassinent presque journellement des Rayas.

Les meurtres sont commis dans la zone neutre et dans les endroits occupés par les armées Russes. Les autorités militaires Russes ferment les yeux sur ce qui se passe et laissent commettre ces meurtres, je suis persuadé dans un but quelconque, sans autrement s'en occuper que si rien n'était. A la suite d'informations puisées aux meilleures sources et avec le plus grand soin, j'ai pu me convaincre que ces meurtres sont commis par des réfugiés partis de Gallipoli.

J'en ai encore parlé à son Excellence le Mutessarif Rechid Pasha en relevant, d'une manière accentuée, la nécessité de prendre toutes les mesures possibles pour mettre terme à un état de choses qui pourrait bien créer des embarras à son Gouvernement et peut-être amener des conséquences fâcheuses, surtout en présence du fait que les autorités militaires Russes semble se plaire en voyant les meurtres s'augmenter.

Malheureusement, son Excellence ne dispose pas de moyens assez efficaces pour empêcher ces meurtres, et son Excellence Osman Pacha, Commandant Militaire, a donné des ordres qui ne reçoivent pas leur exécution. Je ne sais si l'inexécution de ces ordres tient au mécontentement qui s'est manifesté parmi les troupes Bosniaques à la suite de l'occupation de leur pays par les armées Austro-Hongroises.

Le Colonel Russe, Commandant à Charkeui, a dit à une personne de toute confiance, qui se trouvait chez lui pendant qu'on avait apporté sous sa fenêtre huit cadavres de Rayas tués dans une seule nuit, "Les Rayas n'ont que ce qu'ils

méritent; ils sont payés de la même monnaie qu'ils ont payé aux Turcs dans ces derniers jours."

J'ai été informé secrètement qu'un complot s'est formé parmi plusieurs réfugiés pour massacrer, dès leur arrivée à Kessan, les Primats Rayas, et entre autres ont été nommés les Primats Panayoti, H. Paraskeva, Christodoulo et Yanco Zannetto. Ce dernier est un sujet Hellène, frère du Vice-Consul de Grèce à Gallipoli.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

No. 212.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1104.) *Therapia, September 5, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches from Mr. Edmund Calvert, giving an account of the burning of thirteen Turkish villages and of the threatened renewal of hostilities between the Russians and insurgents in the Ortakeui district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 212.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, August 27, 1878.

Sir,

I REGRET to inform your Excellency that a number of Turkish villages lying to the north-east of Adrianople, some on this side of the boundary line of Eastern Roumelia and some beyond it, have lately been subjected to pillage, bloodshed, and violence of every kind by the Christian inhabitants of the same districts. The names of thirteen such villages have been reported to me, but as it is only from a few of the number that fugitives have been able to reach this, others will probably have to be added to the list.

The majority of the Mussulman population in that part of the country kept to their homes on the approach of the invading army. Squads of Russian troops were distributed among the villages there, and beyond the carrying off of more or less of their cattle by the Cossacks and by their Christian neighbours, the Turkish peasants had not, as a rule, much to complain of. On the 10th instant the troops in question were withdrawn in order to assist at the farewell review at San Stefano, and it was upon their retirement that the Christians fell upon the defenceless Turks.

At Elemenli, a mixed village of twenty-five Bulgarian and twenty Turkish houses, the Christians behaved well, and so long as the Russian squad quartered there remained, the Turks suffered no molestation beyond the loss of some of their cattle. On the night after the departure of the soldiers a party of six armed Bulgarians, four on horseback and two on foot, made a descent on the Turkish quarter. The Bulgarians of the village recognized among them two men from Evrenli and two from Muradli. One of the others, who was on horseback, wore a Russian military cap. The party carried off six head of cattle. The Turkish herdsman in charge, who was armed with one of the two pistols which the villagers were allowed to retain for the protection of their live-stock, fired at the marauders, but without effect. The latter, returning the fire, killed the Turk. On the next afternoon another party of twenty or thirty Bulgarians came and carried off all the remaining cattle belonging to the Turks. They repeated their visit in the evening, whereupon all the Turkish women and children fled from the village, and my informant, who left at this juncture, does not know what further happened there.

Odjakkioi, a Turkish village of twenty-five houses, was attacked on the same night by a party of twenty-five Christians, of whom ten or twelve were recognized as Greeks from Buyuk-Boghalik and Kutchuk-Boghalik, and eight as Bulgarians from Pasha-Kioï and Déré-Mahallesi. The assailants shot one man, Menishoglu Khalil, a refugee from Yeni-Beyli. Three more, one of them belonging to the village and the

others refugees from Pasha-Kiöi, were wounded with yataghans and firearms. One of the attacking party, who proved to be a Greek from Buyuk-Boghalik, named Tufektchi Christo, was killed, as the informants now here allege, by one of their own party in a *mêlée* which took place in the dark. The assailants then left without further mischief, and the Turkish villagers sent notice to Adrianople of what had occurred. The same party returned next day and carried off all the good cattle to the number of eighty-seven head. On the day following a detachment of twenty Cossacks arrived from Adrianople. A squad of three men was left at the village, and it has not been molested since. None of the plundered cattle has, however, been restored to the owners, and the villagers have not the means, therefore, of threshing out their corn or of bringing it in from the fields.

Gaibilar, a Turkish village of 180 houses, was also attacked on the night following the departure of the Russian squad stationed there, by a party of twenty-three Bulgarians, who carried off fifty-four head of cattle. On the following day a message was sent by the Bulgarians to Gaibilar, to the effect that they were 200 strong, and that the Turks must give them 150 liras. The Turks asked for a delay of three days, and in the meantime sent notice to the authorities here. It is reported that a large party of Bulgarians, said to be conscripts, or young men on their way to be drawn for the "National Army," have since made a descent on the village and extorted from each inhabitant singly all the money they were able.

The Turkish quarter of Sary-Danishmend, a village containing fifty Mussulman and five Bulgarian houses, was attacked four days after the departure of the Cossacks stationed there. The troops had at the beginning carried off thirty out of seventy pair of draught cattle, and the Turks, fearing to lose the rest, had committed all but eight pair to the care of the Bulgarians of Vaissal. The attacking party consisted of fifty or sixty Bulgarians from the same village of Vaissal and that of Tatarlar, who were joined by others from Sary-Danishmend itself. These came in the night, pillaged the Turkish houses, beat the men, and outraged seven married women and one girl. The girl, aged 13, was violated under revolting circumstances by three men, and the father so cruelly beaten that he is now under treatment in the hospital here. Three other men are in the same case, and one woman had her arm pierced with a yataghan. The Bulgarians left in the morning, and all the Turkish inhabitants of the village with the exception of eight families came away next day, and reaching Adrianople in safety gave in a petition to the authorities.

The above are the only cases respecting which I have been able to obtain reliable details.

The following villages are also said to have been the scene of similar disorders:—

Toptchilar and Ermeni-Mahallesi: treated in the same way as Gaibilar.

Petcho-Mahallesi: pillaged, and some houses burnt.

Erikler (the village mentioned in my despatch No. 30, of the 15th instant, as the scene of outrageous proceedings on the part of the Cossack detachment stationed there), Keshilik, and Malkoteh: sacked. The inhabitants are reported to have fled to the mountains.

Yimrük-Kayu and Belevren: no particulars.

The only means by which I could obtain more complete information regarding these events would be by visiting the scene of their occurrence, but I hesitate to do so before receiving your Excellency's sanction.

In the meanwhile, there is reason to believe that the troops dispatched there by the Russian authorities have put a stop to these outrages. As usual, however, nothing is heard of as to restitution of the plundered property, or punishment of the guilty parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 212.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, August 28, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 26th instant a party of Bulgarians from the village of Maudritza, one hour and a-half south-west of

Ortakioi, attempted a raid on the insurgent territory. This provoked reprisals, and on the following day the insurgents made a descent on Mandritza and captured it. They have also retaken Plavon, which they had evacuated some time back, and have occupied one or two other villages whose names I have not yet ascertained. It is not known whether any of the inhabitants were killed, but part of them were in time to escape before the arrival of the insurgents. About forty fugitive families have arrived here from the above-mentioned places, and also from Ortakioi. Six Bulgarians who had taken part in the raid were brought in yesterday under arrest. Meanwhile, three battalions of infantry and a field battery were dispatched from this towards the scene of action yesterday, and they have been followed to-day by two more battalions.

On the 23rd instant the Greek quarter of Panagia, at Demotica, was set on fire in five places, and sixty houses were destroyed. The act is attributed to revenge for the destruction of Turkish farms and other property; and the son of Hadji Shakir Bey, a notable of Demotica, has been arrested on suspicion. It is reported to-day that a fresh act of incendiarism took place again last night, and that disturbances ensued in which many lives were lost. This last news, however, requires confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 213.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 12.*)

(No. 1105.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 5*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith translation of an inclosure in Mr. Consul Blunt's despatch of the 22nd ultimo on the subject of military preparations in Greece, which has been confidentially communicated to him by Ali Saïb Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, together with two other despatches on the state of affairs in Thessaly and Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 213.

Memorandum by Ali Saïb Pasha.

(Traduction du Turc.)

LORS de mon voyage à Azden [?], village dont la forteresse sert de dépôt de guerre au Gouvernement Grec, j'y ai pu constater l'existence de 400 charges de munitions et de diverses armes et fusils, et de plus six pièces Krupp de campagne en dehors de la forteresse. J'ai vu en outre qu'on a construit la route pour le passage des canons depuis le susdit village jusqu'à la fontaine construite par Abdourahman Aga, sise au delà de la Tour Courea, qui est notre Derbend. Des armes et des munitions sont, du susdit village, expédiées au dehors, à fur et à mesure qu'elles y arrivent.

Pendant mon séjour au susdit village j'ai su d'une très-bonne source que l'on était en train de débarquer des armes et des munitions soit à Ermize [?], qui est dans le Sandjac de Trikala, soit à Volos.

Le Gouvernement Grec a quadruplé et quintuplé le nombre des troupes qu'il entretient dans les tours des frontières qui, partant d'Ermize, aboutissent à Narda; c'est-à-dire, que là où il y avait jadis dix soldats, il y a maintenant soixante ou soixante-dix, et parfois toute une compagnie.

Le bandit Zoloum, qui passant la frontière avec trente-cinq compagnons s'est dirigé à Agrapha, a pu rejoindre ses hommes.

En outre, le bandit renommé Aunaljo, qui précédemment avait trouvé refuge chez les Grecs, se propose dans très-peu de jours de se diriger vers Adu. De même les nommés Cokino, de Doneké, et Costa Hadji Oglou, sont sur le point de se diriger vers Doneké, avec vingt-cinq de leurs compagnons.

Un salaire de 200 drachmes a été alloué tant à Cokino qu'à Costa.

Il est de notoriété publique ici que Scarlato Soutzo se trouve dans le village d'Egrépos avec douze bataillons et beaucoup de canons, et que si la guerre éclate, il s'emparera de Doneké pour en faire le centre d'opérations, et qu'il transférera ici le dépôt de munitions et de provisions.

Le cas échéant on peut se rendre dans l'espace de huit heures d'Egrépos à Azdin.

Vu la nécessité du moment on a l'intention de requérir à la conscription le contingent de deux années à la fois, et d'appeler sous les armes toute l'armée territoriale.

Le Gouvernement d'Athènes à demandé aux autorités la liste de tous les criminels qui sont dans les prisons, et l'on comprend qu'il se propose de les lancer en guise de bande dans le province de Trihala.

Le $\frac{5}{17}$ Août, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 213.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, August 28, 1878.

Sir,

THE following is the substance of the telegram which I addressed to your Excellency on the 23rd instant:—

"I have been confidentially informed that yesterday the Mahommedan community of Janina telegraphed to the Sultan, the Grand Vizier, and the Seraskier, praying to be timely informed if there be any truth in the report spread by the Hellenic Consul in that town that Epirus is to be annexed to Greece, and declaring their firm determination to oppose with arms any such annexation."

I gather from persons who have recently come here from Janina and other districts in Epirus, that there is considerable agitation among the Toscas (the Mahommedan Albanians in that province) against the proposed annexation of any portion of their country to Greece; and that they receive encouragement from the Ghegas (or Mahommedans in North Albania), to unite with them in opposing the execution of the conditions of the Congress at Berlin regarding the severance of any territory from North and South Albania.

In my telegrams to your Excellency of the 2nd June and 5th July, and in my despatch of the 17th July, 1878, I furnished you with some information which I had received from confidential sources in regard to the manifestations and arrangements which were made at the meetings held at Prisrend, by the Chiefs in the principal districts of these provinces, with a view to preparing an organized resistance to the decisions of Congress affecting their interests. I have since been informed that a certain Abeddin Bey, a native of Epirus, well known at Constantinople, having for some time held the appointment of Imperial Commissary at the Bourse of Galata, has, since his return to Janina, taken a very active part in preparing and directing the popular mind and temper of his countrymen against the proposed new order of things; but whether he has done so with the authority or cognizance of the Ottoman Government is not apparent.

Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney will, doubtless, have reported to your Excellency upon the situation in Epirus, and furnished your Excellency with information regarding the disposition and sentiments of the Mahommedan population of that province. I imagine that the present condition of affairs in the Rhodope Mountains, and in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, cannot fail to give a potent impulse to the movement of these Albanians in the direction I have pointed out. But, be this as it may, so far I cannot say that I have observed that the leading Mahommedans in this and the other towns which I have visited in Thessaly are animated with the same disturbing sentiments. Doubtless this may be, in a great measure, ascribed to the numerical superiority of the Mahommedans as compared with the Christian element in this province, and also, in part, to the fact that the former have no affinity of race with the Tosca or Ghega Albanians, descending as they do from the Turks of Asia Minor, who emigrated to Thessaly upon its conquest by the Turks.

Most of the Beys and landowners with whom I have conversed on the subject, after the publication in the Turkish and Greek newspapers of the Protocols of the Congress relative to the Greek question, seem to assume it as inevitable that a portion of Thessaly will be annexed to Greece; and, although regretting that such should be the case, manifest no signs of intended opposition to what they consider to be a fatality and a stern necessity. On the other hand, their minds are preoccupied and very much troubled in contemplating the effects which the proposed annexation may have upon their "djans" (lives), "irz" (family honour), and "mal" (property).

Many of these notables have spoken to me very seriously and feelingly on these points, and expressed a strong desire to learn whether the European Powers, England

above all, would take measures towards securing the tranquillity and protection of the Mahommedan element in this country when its annexation is effected, and obviating any of the dispossessions, violence, and horrible outrages which have disgraced the Russian occupation of Bulgaria and Roumelia, and which have so intensely excited the passions of the whole Mahommedan people, and produced the impression amongst them that Europe, by not opposing or remonstrating, looks with indifference upon their extermination and expulsion from their homes!

These notables, in thus manifesting to me their sentiments and views, express the hope that the measures which the Greek Government may be called upon to take for the protection of the Mahommedans in the districts proposed to be annexed will be supplemented by European vigilance and supervision, in order to effectually protect them from suffering the cruel fate which has overtaken their co-religionists under Russian control. They seem to apprehend serious excesses from the revengeful spirit of the Sarakatchans and Kotzou-Vlachs, wild and lawless races of nomadic shepherds who inhabit the mountainous districts on both sides of the border, and by whom brigandage, the source of so much evil to both countries, has been constantly nourished.

In conversing with them upon these particulars, I have not failed to encourage and promote the abiding and patient temper they evince; and I have used arguments calculated to calm their apprehensions and forebodings. I have pointed out to them the arrangements which the Congress has sanctioned for securing religious liberty to all classes, and for protecting their vested rights in the provinces which were the theatre of the late war. I dwelt on the fact that the Greek nation is under a Constitutional form of Government, and under the protection and influence of the great European Powers, and as such not likely to act in an arbitrary or unjust manner towards the Mahommedans who may be placed within its rule through the intervention of these Powers; and, lastly, I impressed upon them that Her Majesty's Government takes a lively interest in the welfare and just treatment of all the inhabitants of Turkey, without distinction of race and creed, and that the sufferings of the Mahommedans from the cruel effects of the late war have excited no less sympathy and solicitude on the part of the British nation than have been displayed in those of the Christians and Jews.

Although these and similar arguments have always been accepted here with attention and respect, and I think have not been without some useful effect, and although I am not yet aware of the means and conditions of the Mahommedan Albanians in Epirus for an organized resistance to the contemplated changes, it is to be apprehended that in case any serious movement takes place in that province, and meets even with partial success, it must decidedly have a great moral influence upon the Mahommedans in Thessaly, and may excite feelings different to those apparently now prevailing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 213.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, August 29, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that intelligence was received here yesterday afternoon from Hassan Pasha, the Brigadier-General commanding at Domoco, that a Turkish patrol in pursuit of brigands encountered, on the 26th instant, a formidable band of them, composed of Greeks and Sarakatchans, in the vicinity of the village of Kaitza, not far from the Greek border.

A fight ensued, which resulted in the dispersion of the brigands, after their chief and five of their companions had been killed, and several others wounded.

On the Turkish side one soldier was killed, and three slightly wounded. The remnant of the band is reported to have crossed over the border into Greece.

The patrol took possession of 70 horses and 500 sheep and goats which it found straying in that vicinity; but as some of the villagers of Kaitza claim these animals as their property, the Commander-in-chief telegraphed to the Mixed Commission which has been instituted in the district for the recovery of stolen cattle to make the necessary inquiries with the view to restoring them to their rightful owners.

I should mention that about a week before this encounter with the brigands took

place, Hassan Pasha had telegraphed to his chief here that one of his detachments, while patrolling in the vicinity of the village of Palama, met, at some distance on this side of the border, a company of Hellenic troops under the command of a Captain.

Fortunately, owing to the prudent tact of the commanding officers of both detachments, no hostile consequences resulted. Upon the request of the Turkish officer, his Greek colleague explained that he had crossed over in search of the brigand chief Costa Zolounni; and, on his being warned to beware of repeating, in the present state of affairs, a similar injudicious proceeding, retired with his men within the Greek lines.

Hassan Pasha also reports that, a few days ago, a sergeant and a private of the Hellenic army were apprehended by some of his men while in the act of plundering hay on this side of the border. The Commander-in-chief has directed Hassan Pasha to deliver up these two men to the nearest Hellenic authority, in pursuance of the conciliatory spirit which, as I reported in a previous despatch, the Greek Consul had acknowledged as being always manifested by his Excellency in such matters.

I am also informed that, upon the Governor of Volo receiving notice from the inhabitants of Ayios Lavrendios, a Greek village on Mount Pelion, about three hours distant from Volo, that a band of Greek robbers had made its appearance in the vicinity of their village, and had carried off a hostage, claiming a heavy ransom for him, immediately sent troops in pursuit of the band, which they hunted out, and succeeded in dispersing, on the 25th instant, after killing four and capturing two of its members. A Lieutenant and two privates were slightly wounded of the troops, and, most unfortunately, the hostage was dangerously wounded during the conflict.

The Commander of the troops at Karaferia reports, under date the 25th instant, that six robbers in that district have given themselves up to the authorities there.

People who have recently come here from Carditza inform me that brigandage is very rife in that district. Mr. Longworth is now there, and will, I hope, report to me on the subject.

The court-martial at Larissa, after a full inquiry, released last week from prison twenty-two Greek peasants and two Albanians who had been apprehended about six weeks ago in the villages of Tricalla on suspicion of harbouring or otherwise assisting the brigands who infest that district.

It appears that the court-martial was satisfied that there was not sufficient proof of their culpability, and in consequence recommended their release to the Commander-in-chief.

Having learned in connection with this case that the local Court at Tricalla had allowed itself to be swayed by malicious testimony against the accused, I suggested to the Commander-in-chief that in future it would be advisable that in similar cases a Mixed Commission, composed of two Turkish and two Christian notables of the place, under the presidency of the military officer in command there, should be constituted to fully inquire into and report upon the circumstances before transferring them for decision to the court-martial at Larissa. He approved of my suggestion, and telegraphed orders accordingly.

Ali Saib Pasha left this on the 24th instant for Mezzovo to meet his colleague Hamdi Pasha, the Commander-in-chief in Epirus, with the object of arranging matters connected with the provisioning of the troops and other details of their respective commands.

He is expected back here this evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 214.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1106.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 5, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Rear-Admiral Commerell to Sir Geoffrey Hornby on the subject of the laying waste by the Russians of the country before they evacuate it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 214.

Rear-Admiral Commerell to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby, August 28, 1878.

[See Inclosure in No. 104.]

No. 215.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1115.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 6, 1878.*

I HAVE not failed to communicate to the Grand Vizier the substance of the several telegrams that I have received from your Lordship with reference to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria; and I have done all in my power to convince his Highness of the urgent importance of coming to an immediate understanding with Count Andrassy as to the Convention to be entered into between the Porte and Austria-Hungary on the subject. I have been in daily communication with his Highness on this matter.

Safvet Pasha is, I believe, earnestly desirous of settling this dangerous question without further delay; but he has met with serious opposition in the Council of Ministers. I had been led by him to hope that a favourable decision would have been come to at its meeting yesterday; but I believe that such has not been the case.

Count Andrassy has now, I understand, repudiated the agreement entered into by him and his colleagues at Berlin with the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, on the ground that the Porte has not submitted to the decision of the Congress, but has resisted the occupation of the provinces. This has further irritated the Turks against Austria, and has strengthened the opposition to Safvet Pasha.

It is to be feared that, as hinted to me three days ago by his Highness, the Council may end in deciding to break off all further negotiations with Count Andrassy, to recall Carathéodory Pasha from Vienna, and to protest formally before Europe against the annexation by Austria of two Turkish provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 216.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 1114.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 6, 1878.*

FROM trustworthy information that reaches me from several quarters, I am led to believe that the Russians have recently determined to change their policy with regard to the Mussulman population in Bulgaria and Roumelia. They are now, it is stated, encouraging the Mohammedans to return to their villages, are offering them protection against the Bulgarians, and are treating them, in some instances, with marked favour. It is probable that this change has been caused by the very unfavourable impression made upon public opinion in Europe against Russia in consequence of the publication of official reports of the ill-treatment of the Mussulmans by the Russian troops and by the Bulgarians, and especially by the result of the inquiries of the European Commission sent to the districts of Mount Rhodope. It may also be partly attributed to the discontent which, it is said, has begun to manifest itself amongst the Bulgarians against the Russians, who may, consequently, be desirous of conciliating the Turks.

At any rate, it is to be hoped that the cruelties and persecutions to which the Mohammedan population have been exposed will now cease, and that the Russian authorities will, in future, take effective measures to protect them from further molestation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 217.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 12.*)

(No. 1115.) *Therapia, September 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

HAVING been informed by Mr. Consul Mave, by a despatch dated the 6th August, that a Commission had left the Island of Samos for Constantinople to claim certain privileges, I directed M. Marinich to make further inquiries as to the object of this Commission.

I have been informed by him to-day that the object of the mission is purely administrative, and has nothing to do with any desire for political privileges.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 218.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 12.*)

(No. 1116.) *Therapia, September 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

THE embarkation of the Russian troops at San Stefano continues. I understand that between 20,000 and 25,000 men have now been sent to Russia. They belong, I believe, exclusively to the Guards. On the other hand, some troops appear to have been sent from Odessa to bring up the regiments of the line to their full strength; and the Russians have still, according to General Sir Collingwood Dickson's calculation, from 50,000 to 60,000 men before Constantinople. He has called my attention in his report, of which I send your Lordship a copy, to the fact that the contracts entered into with the Russian Steam Navigation Company for the transport of troops to Russia contain a clause to the effect that the steamers engaged shall, if so required by the Russian authorities, bring back troops, munitions of war, and stores to Turkey.

Neither the Russian Ambassador nor General Todleben has yet informed me that the Russian army is retiring from Constantinople, consequently, acting upon your Lordship's instructions, I have not entered into communication with Admiral Sir G. Hornby for the withdrawal of Her Majesty's fleet from the Princes' Islands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 219.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 12.*)

(No. 462. Secret and Confidential.) *Athens, August 25, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that an excellent authority is of opinion that the presence of Turkish forces in the provinces of Thessaly and Epirus is meant to incite hostilities with Greece, and he further thinks that, should a war arise, all blame should be thrown on Turks and not on Greeks.

Some 15,000 Turkish troops are near the frontier, and a collision might ensue any day.

The Porte will be applied to once more to surrender the new frontier line proposed by the Congress to Greece, but should the application be without result, then Greek Government will invite the Great Powers to mediate, and should their mediation fail, war must take place.

If the safety of Greek coast were guaranteed, excellent authority would be ready to cross the frontier.

The present state of things cannot continue more than another two months.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 220.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 12.*)

(No. 467.) *Athens, August 29, 1878.*

My Lord,

DISQUIETING reports were current in Athens a day or two ago of collisions and disturbances having occurred on the northern frontier of Greece between the inhabitants on each side of the frontier. It appears, however, that the affair was of an insignificant character, and greatly exaggerated by the reports sent to Athens by the Nomarch of Lamia, a person wanting in judgment, and who, at the instance of Photiades Bey, is to be replaced.

The public feeling on the frontier is in a state of considerable excitement, and at any moment a collision might occur between Turks and Greeks, which would prove very embarrassing to the Government, who profess an earnest desire to preserve peace with their neighbour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 221.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 12.*)

(No. 61. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, September 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch, Political, No. 59 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the rumoured assassination of the Italian Consul, M. Perod, is now fully confirmed. It occurred on the 2nd August on the road between Tebic and Vranduk. There are said to be strong presumptions as to who were the assassins, and it is to be hoped, therefore, that they will be shortly discovered.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 222.

Consul R. Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 12.*)

(No. 7. Political.) *Varna, September 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copy of a despatch I have just addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador, giving some account of the present position of the foreign Consuls there, and the treatment of Mussulmans by the Bulgars.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 222.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. Layard.

Varna, August 31, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I returned last night from Rustchuk.

I saw those of my colleagues who are there, all of whom gave me a most gloomy account of their recent experience from the state of affairs at Rustchuk.

The Tribunals are composed of Bulgars, who appear to do just what they please, and are little interfered with by the Russians.

Foreign subjects are arrested by the police not only without the slightest reference to their Consuls, but the latter are not allowed to intervene whenever they attempt to do so on hearing of the arrest or trial of any of their dependants—for instance, the French and Austrian Vice-Consuls were recently ordered away from the Commercial

Tribunal where they had been sent by their Consuls to be present during the trial of two of their dependants arrested without their knowledge.

Taxes and imposts are levied on foreign subjects in the most arbitrary way, and without any reference whatever to the Consuls; in short, everything is being done in this way by the Bulgars entirely ignoring all Consular officers, and in open defiance of the Capitulations.

The Turks were accused of bribery and corruption; but I heard a Bulgar himself say that they were "angels in this respect." I am not in a position for obvious reasons to say more.

A number of young Bulgars have been enrolled as soldiers. I heard numerous stories of the way in which they conduct themselves, and which if not arrested will render it very disagreeable for non-Bulgars, particularly Mussulmans, to reside in the country.

As regards the Mussulmans, from what I was told by well informed and impartial people of what is taking place in those parts where there are no Consuls or foreigners, if scenes outeclipsing the outrages of 1876 occur I shall not be surprised.

There is no doubt but that the European Powers in deciding on what was to be left to the Bulgars themselves little thought what would be the fate of the Mussulmans in particular of this province; indeed, I am assured that many Russians of proper feeling often express serious doubts as to how all will end when they withdraw.

The landing of ammunition of war at Rustchuk, mentioned in many of my recent Reports, continues as active as ever; but I have not been able to learn the real object of this.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 223.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 90. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard, (1) reporting the impatience of the Cretan Christians for a settlement of their differences with the Porte, and (2) announcing the arrival of the Imperial Commissioner, Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, August 30, 1878.*

TIDINGS arrived here on the 28th instant that two Christian Chiefs in the district of Messara, to the south of Candia, had been killed by their co-religionists, and another severely wounded. It is confidently stated that the motive for this crime is exasperation on the part of the people of that district against their leaders, whom they suspect of a design to deceive and delude them. It has been known for some time past that England is using her good offices with the Porte to bring about an improved system of government in Crete, and yet there is no sign of any steps being taken in that direction, so that the peasantry have got the idea that their leaders are playing them false. It was under the impulse of this idea that they rose against their Chiefs, and have chosen others in whom they repose more confidence. There is, indeed, everywhere apparent the greatest impatience for a settlement of the present troubles, mingled with the suspicion that the leaders of the people are somehow responsible for the delay that is occurring. Seeing that his Excellency Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, who, according to your Excellency's telegram of the 22nd instant, was to have left Constantinople immediately, did not make his appearance, I thought it advisable to inform your Excellency of the necessity for his speedy arrival, and I accordingly telegraphed on the 28th instant that it was important for the Commissioner to arrive,

lest the delay might be the cause of disturbances. This morning I had the honour to receive your Excellency's welcome telegram of yesterday, stating that Moukhtar Pasha was to leave for Crete on the morrow accompanied by Salim Effendi.

Doubt seems to be thrown on the story of a blockade-runner having landed warlike stores near Hierapetra, as reported in my despatch last week. It was generally believed, and the Vali told me it had been officially reported to him, but his Excellency now seems to think that it was purposely circulated by some Chiefs who wish their followers to believe that they may still rely on aid from Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 223.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to announce to your Excellency the arrival here on the afternoon of the 1st instant of his Excellency Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, the newly-appointed Commissioner in Crete, who was accompanied by Constantin Bey, Aide-de-Camp of the Sultan, and by Salim Effendi.

His Excellency was unfortunately seized with illness shortly after his arrival, which confines him to his bed. Constantin Bey called upon me yesterday to assure me that his Excellency much regretted not to be able to see me, and to state that he was sincerely desirous of putting an end, by pacific means, to the present unhappy state of anarchy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 224.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 36. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, September 4, 1878.*

IN my despatch of the 2nd instant I stated that General Poppenheim had crossed the frontier with the intention of marching on Trebinje.

I must now inform your Lordship that General Poppenheim went only as far as Drieno, and that he has returned to Ragusa, leaving General Noteh in command of the expedition.

It appears that General Poppenheim had been informed that, on the arrival of the Austrian troops at Drieno, the Turkish regulars stationed there would at once surrender, and that he thought it advisable to accompany them thus far in order to satisfy himself that they were not being led into a trap.

On the approach of the General, who was accompanied by my Turkish colleague (probably his informant), the Turkish regulars wheeled round and pointed their arms at some thirty insurgents, who had accompanied them with the prospect of a resistance being made, and who at once decamped, much astonished at the turn affairs had taken.

On the short march from Ragusa to Drieno, a distance of about fifteen miles only, the Austrians lost three men from sunstrokes, or other causes, one from suicide, and one who was run through the body by an officer for refusing to march any further. I have just seen an officer who had attended the *post-mortem* examination. He, however, was very reticent on the subject when I began to interrogate him as to the legality of such an act on the part of an officer when not absolutely before the enemy.

A similar case happened a short time since, not two miles from Ragusa.

A man of the Land-wehr, complaining of fatigue and inability to proceed any further, was immediately run through the body by the officer in command.

My Turkish colleague informed me this morning that a deputation, composed of the Mussulmans, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians, representing the greater portion of the inhabitants of Trebinje, had presented themselves at the Austrian head-quarters for the purpose of tendering their submission.

If such is really the case, and Suleiman Pasha still at Trebinje, the prospects of Hadj Ali, the fanatic and madman, and his misguided followers, have indeed become hopeless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) O. ST. JOHN.

No. 225.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 156. Political.) *Bucharest, September* 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD occasion to visit Rustchuk for a few hours yesterday, for the purpose of meeting Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff on his way to Constantinople.

All I heard there confirmed the painful impression formed by previous reports from Bulgaria, that a considerable and unnecessary exodus is going on amongst the Mussulman population of that province, entailing much misery and suffering on this class of the inhabitants, who abandon their homes and farms without any sufficient cause and become voluntary exiles, wandering in search of some unknown region under the influence of an unreasonable panic.

This is very much to be deplored, not only on account of the cruel and wanton sufferings and losses thus inflicted on a large class of unoffending individuals and on their families, but likewise as an evidence of want of foresight and proper feeling on the part of both the Governments concerned, who have been at war, but are supposed to be now at peace.

Surely means could be found by those two Imperial Powers to put a stop to this uncalled-for migration of a large class of ignorant peasants who happen to belong to the creed formerly dominant, and who are now paying a penalty they have not deserved by flying they know not where from evils which they apprehend.

If such results cannot be entirely prevented, these unhappy people might at least be persuaded to wait till some settlement could be provided for them, either in Eastern Roumelia or in some other province, and until some kind of compensation for their former lands and tenements could be obtained for them from the new occupiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 226.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 158. Political.) *Bucharest, September* 7, 1878.

My Lord,

I UNDERSTAND that the Government of Prince Charles have sent a reply, yesterday, to the Russian note of the 23rd ultimo demanding the surrender of Bessarabia.

I have not been able to obtain a copy of this answer; I have reason to believe, however, that whilst it conveys submission to what is considered as inevitable, it does not concur with the view taken by the Imperial Cabinet and the wish expressed by it that the same forms should be observed in the retrocession as were followed in 1856.

This Government is quite prepared to remove their officials, &c., from the districts to be surrendered should Russia appoint a date for that purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 227.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 766.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to forward to your Lordship, at 3·45 P.M. this day, the following telegram *en clair*:—

"A telegram from the Grand Duke Michael to the Emperor, published officially this morning, announces that the Russian troops entered Batoum at 11 A.M. on Friday the 6th instant. The Russian authorities immediately took possession of the town, all the Turkish civil *employés* having departed. Fifteen tabors of Turkish troops still remain, but will be sent off as soon as possible. All quiet everywhere in the district. Dervish Pasha, with deputation of Mussulmans and of Christians, met the Russian General at entrance of Batoum."

Translation from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the official despatch above alluded to is herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of August 31/September 8, 1878.

Télégramme de Son Altesse Impériale Mgr. le Grand Duc Michel Nicolaïévitch à Sa Majesté l'Empereur, en date de Vendredi, 25 Août, 8 heures 20 minutes du soir.

J'AI le bonheur de féliciter votre Majesté à l'occasion de l'occupation de Batoum. Je viens de recevoir de l'Aide-de-camp Général Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky la dépêche suivante, datée de cette ville:—

"Nos troupes sont entrées à Batoum ce matin à 11 heures. Le drapeau Russe a été arboré dans le port, par l'escadre, et nos autorités ont pris ensuite en mains l'administration de la ville.

"Dervisch Pacha m'a reçu à l'entrée de Batoum, avec une députation des habitants et le clergé Chrétien et Musulman. Les autorités civiles Turques étaient parties sans attendre notre arrivée.

"Il reste encore à Batoum environ quinze tabors de troupes Turques. Dervisch Pacha fait tout son possible pour leur prompt départ.

"Le Général-Major Nourid est nommé Commandant intérimaire de Batoum."

Tout va bien dans la contrée; la tranquillité règne partout.

No. 228.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 703.) *Paris, September* 11, 1878.

My Lord,

M. DESPREZ informed me to-day that no answer had yet been received from the Marquis d'Harcourt to the instructions given to him by M. Waddington to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government in respect to the identic note proposed by the German Government to be addressed to the Porte pressing upon the latter the observance of the Treaty of Berlin.

I told M. Desprez that I had received a telegram yesterday evening from your Lordship stating that Her Majesty's Government had replied to the invitation from Berlin that in their opinion sufficient time had not elapsed since the ratification of the Treaty to justify a remonstrance, and that there was no evidence at present of any such neglect on the part of Turkey to observe its engagements which would deserve a treatment so severe.

M. Desprez said that he would not fail to inform M. Waddington, who would not be in Paris till the end of the week, of this reply on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and he added that no official answer in the matter had yet been given by the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 229.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 704.)
Paris, September 11, 1878.

My Lord,

IN order to carry out the instructions contained in the telegram from your Lordship which I received yesterday evening, as to the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia holding its sittings at Philippopolis, I addressed a note to M. Waddington, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

M. Desprez told me to-day that he would lose no time in referring my communication to M. Waddington, and he said that the French Ambassador at Constantinople had reported that the British Commissioners were in favour of the sittings being held at Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Mr. Adams to M. Waddington.

Paris, September 11, 1878.

M. le Ministre,

I AM instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inquire whether the French Government see any objection to the Commission which is appointed to organize Eastern Roumelia holding its sittings at Philippopolis.

I am to state that Her Majesty's Government are much in favour of this idea, because they consider that if the Commission were to sit at Philippopolis, an easier pacification of the district would thereby be likely to be produced.

I should be very much obliged to your Excellency if you would favour me with an answer to this note at your early convenience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 230.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 705.)
Paris, September 11, 1878.

My Lord,

IN order to carry out the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 574 of the 9th instant, I to-day recalled to M. Desprez's recollection the language held to Lord Lyons by M. Waddington on the 17th ultimo, as to making the recognition by France of Roumania dependent upon the latter carrying out the stipulation in the Treaty of Berlin securing religious equality.

I requested M. Desprez to inform M. Waddington, in the words of your Lordship's despatch, that Her Majesty's Government are disposed to agree with his Excellency that the formal acceptance, and, as far as practicable, the execution of the conditions annexed to the Treaty of Berlin in regard to the independence of Servia and of Roumania, should in both cases precede the formal acknowledgment of such independence.

M. Desprez promised that he would report the opinion of Her Majesty's Government to M. Waddington.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 231.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 824.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 12, 1878.

RUSSIAN Ambassador informs me that he has been told by his Government that, according to an agreement with the Powers, the meeting of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia has been put off until the 2nd October.

Is such the case?

No. 232.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 11, 1878.

AUSTRIAN Government have proposed, and Italian Government have agreed, to postpone for the present the meeting of the Commission for settling the Montenegrin frontier.

Russian Government have since instructed their Chargé d'Affaires to press this Government for the immediate meeting of the said Commission.

Your Lordship's proposal that Commission for Eastern Roumelia should sit at Philippopolis has been referred to Count Corti at Milan.

No. 233.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September* 12, 1878.

A CIRCULAR to their Representatives abroad for communication to Government to which they are [accredited?] has been sent by this Government, conveying renewed assurances of their determination to carry out the obligations imposed on them by the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 234.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 162.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of day before yesterday, I have seen answer sent by M. de Giers, which is as follows:—

"Certainly we do not refuse to associate ourselves to the step proposed by Germany, but we must remind her of the unfavourable reception given to the analogous proposition which we made at the Congress."

No. 235.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1878, 1·20 P.M.

WITH respect to your telegram No. 805, Her Majesty's Government are prepared to sanction the alternative suggested by your Excellency in the declaration which they instructed you to make.

No. 236.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 8.) *Foreign Office, September 12, 1878.*

Sir,

SIR H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF, the British Member of the European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, has stated that it would be of advantage to him to receive any information you may be able to give him as to the population of the districts of that province which you may visit, the proportionate number of races and religions, and as to the measures taken by the Russian authorities to levy the taxes.

I should wish that on your arrival at Constantinople you should take an opportunity of communicating with Sir H. Drummond-Wolff, and that you should arrange to supply him with any information that you are likely to obtain of a nature to be useful to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 237.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1071.) *Foreign Office, September 12, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE to express to your Excellency my approval of the advice given by you to the Grand Vizier as to the course to be pursued towards the insurgents in the Mount Rhodope districts, as reported in your despatch No. 1028 of the 16th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 238.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1083.) *Foreign Office, September 12, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1058 of the 25th ultimo forwarding copy of a letter addressed to you by the Vakeel of the Protestant Community in Turkey, asking for the Protestant inhabitants of the Turkish territory that may be ceded to Greece the same religious liberty that they now enjoy under the rule of the Sultan.

Your Excellency is authorized to state in reply that Her Majesty's Government will do what is in their power to ensure that in any territory ceded by Turkey to Greece religious liberty not inferior in extent to that which is sanctioned by the existing Ottoman law shall be secured to the inhabitants.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 239.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 74. Political.) *Aleih, August 31, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Lordship, that last week about 1,200 Circassian refugees arrived at Beyrout from Constantinople and Salonica on board an English and an Austrian steamer.

These refugees are at present partly located in the khans of the town and partly under canvas until they can be forwarded to their destination in the interior, which I am told is Hamah and Homs.

I have not heard of any disturbances having taken place in the town since the arrival of these immigrants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 240.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 639. Confidential.) *Vienna, September 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

CARATHEODORY PASHA having spoken to me to-day of the resistance which he believed the Imperial troops will encounter if they enter the *enclave* towards Novi-Bazar without a preliminary understanding with the Porte, I remarked that if this should occur it would be attended with the greatest danger to the Turkish Empire.

He appeared surprised, and asked what danger I hinted at. I said that it might be looked upon as certain that, if the Austro-Hungarian army moved forward with the intention of going to Novi-Bazar, they would not allow themselves to be stopped before they reached it. The single road through the *enclave* passed positions which, if obstinately defended, could not be forced without great sacrifice of men; but they might be turned by an army which was allowed a passage through the territories of the neighbouring Principalities, and there was no security that the Imperial Generals would not avail themselves of these rather than force their way against the obstacles they would meet on the Turkish road. The Servian and Montenegrin Governments, or at least the latter, were known already to be desirous of co-operating with Austria in carrying out the occupation, and though Count Andrassy had shown no disposition to accept their aid, it must not be forgotten that the Slav Generals by whom the Austrian army is commanded are fond of finding opportunities for carrying out their own policy, which is not always that of their Government, and their wish now is to act with the Slav populations in expelling the Turks, while Count Andrassy's object is to erect a barrier against further encroachment by those nationalities.

Caratheodory Pasha said that the possibility of such an eventuality had not struck him, but he declared that it would be fatal to Turkey if it were to occur, and he would at once point out the danger to his Government.

With regard to the Convention by which it was proposed to regulate the details of the occupation, we discussed the question whether, if the Porte is resolved not to conclude one that does not contain a declaration of the provisional character of the occupation, it would not be better to fall back upon an agreement having reference solely to the *enclave*, where the Imperial troops are to be introduced without the administration of it passing to Austria, about which less difficulty would arise; and I expressed the opinion that this course might be followed with advantage.

The Pasha entered at some length into what had passed between Count Andrassy and himself at Berlin, and in the "Commission de Rédaction" charged with drawing up the clause, by which it was provided that an understanding should be come to between the two Governments in reference to the occupation. He said that, as first drafted, the Convention or Agreement would have been confined to the *enclave*, and that it was with great difficulty that he succeeded in getting it altered into its present shape. Under these circumstances, it was not easy for him to propose to his Government to revert to the arrangement he had so strenuously opposed, but he would be glad to be allowed to say that I considered it desirable. I said that I had no objection to his doing so.

In my conversations with his Excellency he has made constant references to what passed in the Commissions of the Congress, in which he states all the real discussions to have taken place and all the real business done; but as I have not the advantage of being acquainted with anything but the public Protocols, I have neither the means of controlling the correctness of his statements nor of forming as sound an opinion as I could have wished upon some of the points discussed. I trust, nevertheless, that in my endeavours to assist in leading to an agreement between the two Governments I have been able correctly to represent your Lordship's views, for I am satisfied that, if it is not arrived at, the danger I have indicated to Caratheodory Pasha is not an imaginary one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 241.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 640.)

Vienna, September 8, 1878.

My Lord,

IT is perhaps unnecessary to inform your Lordship that there is no foundation for the statement of several newspapers, that the Italian Government were demanding satisfaction and pecuniary indemnity for the death of M. Perrod, the Italian Consul at Serajevo, who is believed to have been murdered on the road between Brood and his post, to which he was returning.

Every attempt to ascertain his fate has as yet remained without result, and, though the inquiries are being continued, no expectation is entertained of finding the unfortunate gentleman alive. He had, it appears, been more than once warned of the insecurity of the road he proposed to follow, but, in his anxiety to reach his post, he would not be deterred from attempting it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 241*.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 641.)

Vienna, September 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 241*.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 3.)

Brod, September 5, 1878.

Sir,

I RECEIVED your telegram of the 4th instant, instructing me to proceed to head-quarters "without waiting for authority," on the morning of the 5th. I had already resolved to visit the camp of General Szapary, so as not completely to lose my time.

I take this opportunity of giving the new battle order for the army of occupation:—

Field-Marshal General Philippovits, Commanding.

Only 5 regiments of cavalry—3 of 4 squadrons, 2 of 3 squadrons.

3rd Corps.

Field-Marshal General Szapary.

I. } Divisions .. { *Note.*—At this moment a brigade of the Ist and of the XXth Divisions are at Serajevo, or on the road.
IVth }
XXth }

4th Corps.

Field-Marshal General Bienerth.

XIIIth } Divisions .. { In 10 days this force will reach the Save, say at Samac or Samac and Raca.
XXXIst }

5th Corps.

Field-Marshal General Ramberg.

XIVth } Divisions .. { For the present the Corps is in reserve, but, as will be seen below, minor operations will be undertaken at once. Mobilization complete in 8 days.
XXXIIIrd }

13th Corps.

Duke of Wurtemburg.

Landwehr of Dalmatia. } Frontier duty. { VIth, VIIth, XXXVIth } Divisions .. The Bradjaluka district is in this command.
Hoved Brigade of Agram. }

XVIIIth Division .. In Herzegovina

Field-Marshal General Jovanovits.

The artillery is for the most part mountain artillery, and the strength of batteries varies, nor have I been able to ascertain details regarding engineers and train.

An Austrian engineer associated with some men of means have undertaken to make a provisional road between Brod and Serajevo.

Sleepers, &c., are being collected for a railway from Esseg to Brod.

I am told that a contract has been signed for a provisional narrow line of rails between Brod and Serajevo, but the work is not in progress.

The railway Novi-Banjaluka is in working order, but requires plant. Doubtless a railway will be made from Sipcek to Novi.

The Danube Company's steamboats, with barges ("schlippen") in tow, navigate the Save.

At Samac the insurgents still hold the right bank of the river. The Austrians have a river monitor above and below the town, but there is too little water exactly opposite Samac.

A small steamer passed yesterday (the 4th), and an officer on board tells me that he saw at Samac 300 odd insurgents, who saluted the steamer, but fired no shots. This officer reports having heard 150 gun sounds in the direction of Doboj.

On the 2nd instant I telegraphed to your Excellency that the insurgents were reported as retiring in columns from opposite General Szapary at Doboj. The Commandant here, General Rainberg, told me that Szapary was instructed not to move forward till the 4th Corps was ready to co-operate, but still he was at liberty to push the insurgents back to obtain room.

The columns, with guns, were seen on the Tribova Betaga plateau, on the right bank of the River Spreca. On the 2nd and 3rd scouts reported the presence of an increased force near Serajski, on the left bank of the Spreca. The 4th, at 11 A.M., General Szapary felt with his left, and found no enemy, or rather a few scouts; and then sent a regiment with artillery "on reconnaissance" from his right wing.* This force soon touched the enemy on the forest-clad hills, and, reinforced by a second regiment, attacked. The firing lasted eight hours. The insurgents, who are described as having guns, were dislodged, but there was no pursuit, and the Austrian casualties were rather over 100, but I believe few killed. The result is described by General Szapary as a complete success. It must, therefore, be taken for granted that the Austrian brigade scoured the Maglai road. The country is thickly wooded, and no estimate can be made of the Bosnian strength.

* General Waldstätten in command.

To-morrow four battalions of the 23rd Division, with four guns, will march on Derwent from this, and thence south-west, to disarm the town of Pinjavor. It is said that insurgents who threatened the Duke of Wurtemberg's line of communications at Banjaluka came, for the most part, from the valley of the Ukrina River. The column will return after the completion of its duty.

I hear that the Commandant-General Appel's instructions are, in case an Austrian soldier falls, to apply the most stern measures allowed by the usage of war, viz., soldiers in uniform only to be treated as prisoners of war, contributions levied, property destroyed, &c. Resistance is not, however, expected. Pinjavor is to be reached in three days' march.

My intention is to have an interview with General Szapary, and be guarded by events as to the duration of my stay in the neighbourhood of Doboj. Your Excellency will, no doubt, understand that my non-official presence in plain clothes places my friends in an unpleasant position. They will doubtless be very obliging to me, but at the risk of being blamed from Vienna. Of course it is fair to assume that the fact of my remaining at Brod five days without authority to join the army is no accident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 242.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 642. Confidential.)
Vienna, September 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegraph that the French Chargé d'Affaires had been directed to ascertain whether the Austro-Hungarian Government were disposed to join in a collective representation at Constantinople to induce the Porte to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and he wished to know whether I had received instructions in the same sense. M. de Bourgoing could give me no information as to the provisions of the Treaty which the Turkish Government was to be called upon to put into execution, but said he presumed his Government to allude to the question of the Greek frontier.

Baron Orczy, to whom I spoke on the subject to-day, told me that the proposal for a collective representation at Constantinople had been made from Berlin to Count Andrassy, who had at once acceded to it, but he was no more able than M. de Bourgoing to specify the particular decisions of the Congress which the Porte is considered to have disregarded, excepting that by which it should have taken measures for the evacuation of Podgoritza.

I remarked that, though I had no knowledge of the manner in which the proposal was viewed by Her Majesty's Government, if nothing could be alleged against the Porte except the delay in the evacuation of Podgoritza, it did not appear to me to call for so formal a proceeding as a concerted action at Constantinople, especially as the Russian Government were showing no great alacrity in complying with the provisions of the Treaty by reducing their forces in Bulgaria and East Roumelia to the prescribed strength.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 243.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 644.)
Vienna, September 9, 1878.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I asked Baron Orczy this morning what the Austro-Hungarian Government proposed to do in reference to the appointment of one Commission or two for the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria and East Roumelia.

He said that a discretionary authority had been given to Major Ripp, the senior of the Austrian Delimitation Delegates, to decide whether there ought to be one Commission or two, and that if he considers that there ought to be two he is to send Captain Würmbrand from Constantinople to act upon the Bulgarian Commission, the first duty of which would seem to be to trace the frontier between that province and the Dobrutcha, which the Roumanians are anxious to have fixed as soon as possible.

The Imperial Government are in favour of meeting the wishes of Roumania by having the starting point of that frontier as far up the Danube and as near Silistria as possible, for the purpose of facilitating the construction of a bridge, which is said to be more difficult further down.

The Russian Government, on the other hand, would wish a tract of land along the bank of the river to be comprised in Bulgaria.

As there are no strategical positions to be taken into consideration, it is not thought that the laying down of the line between the Danube and the Black Sea can occupy much time.

Count Andrassy does not consider that two Commissions can be engaged independently in laying down the frontier line between Bulgaria and East Roumelia, and that even if two are appointed it will be necessary for them to unite for tracing the line along the Balkans, which work ought to be undertaken at once, as the winter in those regions sets in early, and would stop all proceedings.

Count Andrassy also considers that, upon points upon which there may arise a difference of opinion, that of a majority of the Commissioners should be binding, a reference being only allowed to the Embassies at Constantinople in the case of an equality of votes, for he thinks that without some such agreement the proceedings may be indefinitely protracted; but the Russian Government are not favourable to the proposal.

With reference to fixing a time of meeting for the Commission that is to lay down the Montenegrin frontier, Count Andrassy considers it quite impracticable to take any step in the present excited and disturbed state of the country, and he is maintaining that opinion at St. Petersburg against the representations of the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 244.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 645. Very Confidential.)
Vienna, September 10, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Convention which Count Andrassy would, I understand, still be ready to conclude with the Porte, contains, among others, the following provisions:—

The preamble would state that the two Governments having determined to come to an understanding upon the details of the occupation, and the fact of the occupation "ne portant pas atteinte" to the sovereign rights of the Sultan over Bosnia and the Herzegovina, had agreed upon the following points:—

The Austro-Hungarian Government would issue a Proclamation stating that their troops do not enter the provinces as enemies or conquerors, but on an understanding with the Porte, which on its side engages to forward to its civil and military authorities instructions to receive the Imperial troops as friends, and to lend their assistance in their task; and the Porte would also send Commissioners to the Austrian head-quarters, who would concert with the Imperial Generals for the gradual withdrawal of the Turkish garrisons, so that all conflict with the populations may be avoided.

The Porte may, as it thinks fit, dispose of the war material in the different fortresses.

The administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina will be exercised, as laid down in the XXVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, by the Austrian Government, which, however, will not object to maintain in their posts all the present functionaries possessed of the necessary qualifications, and in replacing them where it is necessary will by preference select persons who are natives of the province.

The freedom of their religion, respect for their customs, and security for the persons and property of the Mussulmans, are guaranteed; and the name of the Sultan shall continue to be pronounced, according to custom, in the public prayers.

The revenues of Bosnia and the Herzegovina shall be exclusively devoted to their

necessities, to their administration, and to the necessary improvements, and Turkish coin will continue to have currency in those provinces.

The original project, as accepted by Count Andrassy, contained, as your Lordship has been informed, the stipulation that the Ottoman flag "might be maintained there where it is now hoisted" along with the Austro-Hungarian colours; and the Porte has not yet intimated that it would agree to a Convention without this clause, which Count Andrassy will no longer admit.

The Turkish Government are also insisting that the preamble shall contain a formal declaration that the occupation is provisional; that the men composing the Bosnian regiments, after being disarmed, may remain in their country; that any surplus revenue of the provinces shall be paid into the Turkish Treasury for the benefit of the public debt of the Empire; and that natives of Bosnia and the Herzegovina domiciled or travelling in Turkey shall be under the direct Ottoman authority.

With the exception of the question of the preamble and of the disposal of the surplus revenue, which Count Andrassy will not admit, but which has no practical importance, there remains little upon which there ought to be a difficulty in coming to an agreement.

In addition to the clauses I have mentioned as applying to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, where the Austro-Hungarian administration is to be established, there are others that have reference to the *enclave* which is to be occupied but not administered.

These provide that the occupation is to offer no impediment to the Turkish civic, judicial, or financial administration, which is to remain as hitherto under the direct and exclusive control of the Porte.

That the respective Military Commanders are to regulate between themselves questions respecting the subsistence and quartering of the troops, &c.; that if the Porte wishes to maintain garrisons at positions in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar occupied by Austro-Hungarian troops no obstacle shall be opposed to it.

To this latter clause the Porte has proposed to add the provision that it is free to maintain its troops at the commanding positions of Berana and Mitrovitza, as well as at the others above mentioned, upon footing of perfect equality as regards numbers, liberty of movement, and the use of the flag, it being at the same time understood that this arrangement shall not interfere with the liberty of the Austro-Hungarian Government to keep in that district the number of troops that circumstances may render necessary.

The language of Count Andrassy when he last spoke to me on the subject led me to infer that he would agree to this clause with some slight modification.

It is ten days since the decision of the Porte upon these conditions was invited, but no answer has yet been received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 245.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 648.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 10, 1878.

THE news of the murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha has produced here a very deep impression, altogether unfavourable to Turkey, and not unlikely to prove very detrimental to its interests, unless the Porte at once takes energetic measures to assert its authority in Albania.

Nasri Pasha, the Governor of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, is suspected, on strong grounds of presumption, of favouring the organization of resistance against the entrance of the Austrians, for the large convoys of arms and war material which have been passing from Mitrovitza could not well have taken place without at least his connivance.

Many persons, therefore, accuse the Porte of playing a double game, and of itself wishing to throw difficulties in the way of the Austrian advance; though the more moderate are satisfied with attributing the attitude assumed by the Albanian League to the hopeless weakness of the Sultan's Government.

Whichever view is taken of this question, if the League is allowed to develop itself so as to organize a powerful resistance in the *enclave*, the effect is likely to be the same.

Austria had been invited by Europe to assume the administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, because the Porte was not believed to exercise sufficient authority in those provinces to insure their tranquillity; and if the League assumes formidable dimensions in the *enclave*, while the Porte protests its powerlessness to check it, a similar plea will be afforded to Austria for assuming the administration of that district also. It is, therefore, in the manifest interest of the Porte to give evidence that it does possess the necessary authority, which others may be ready to assume if it declares itself powerless.

The Servian Government feels, or professes to feel, much anxiety about a threatened attack by the Albanians, which, if it should occur, would have the result—of all things to be most dreaded—of arraying that Principality with Austria against a common enemy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 246.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 107. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, September* 10, 1878.

AS I have already informed your Lordship by my telegram marked Confidential of this day's date, the Italian Government have, in a guarded reply, accepted the proposal of the German Government to urge upon the Porte the necessity of carrying out the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

In a conversation I had with Count Maffei, he informed me confidentially that as the Italian Government had heard from General Menabrea that your Lordship did not appear disposed to adopt the suggestion set forth in the German Circular, and, moreover, that up to the present moment they had reason to believe no reply had reached Berlin from Her Majesty's Government, the Italian Government had deemed it prudent to forward a reply couched in terms which could only bind them to act jointly if the Signatory Powers unanimously agreed to do so.

Count Maffei said that Count Corti was most desirous to act unitedly with the other Powers on all matters connected with the Treaty; that he felt confident that if your Lordship had seen fit to raise objections to the German scheme it was on the present occasion advisable that the Italian Government, which is somewhat awkwardly situated, should, pending further information, be guarded in its answer, and, if necessary, be guided by the course which Her Majesty's Government is likely to pursue.

Count Maffei remarked that though the President of the Council was opposed to the German proposal—which his Excellency thinks would inevitably be viewed as favouring Austrian policy in the East to the detriment of Italian interests—the majority of the Ministers were of opinion that a joint demand addressed by the Powers to the Porte to execute the Treaty would perhaps offer some guarantee against the forced annexation of Herzegovina and Bosnia by that Power.

On the other hand, the Italian Government feel that having to a certain extent espoused the cause of Greece at the Congress they can barely remain silent in the presence of the procrastination of the Turkish Government with regard to the clause affecting it.

I have no doubt that whilst wishing to appear conciliatory in all questions regarding the Treaty Count Corti is in this case disposed to be in a certain measure guided by the action of Her Majesty's Government; and the answer of the Italian Government has probably been framed in anticipation of a refusal on the part of Her Majesty's Government to adopt the suggestion of the Cabinet of Berlin. At the same time I would venture to submit that it is not unlikely that Count Corti may take this opportunity to assume a less passive attitude with regard to the affairs of Turkey, and he may, without being in a marked manner unfriendly to Austria and Germany, endeavour to enlist general approval in Italy by manifesting a desire to establish closer relations with England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 247.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, September 13.)

Athènes, le 10 Septembre, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

ME référant à mes précédents télégrammes, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que Safvet Pacha ayant déclaré au Premier Drogman de notre Légation qu'il ne saurait répondre, avant que les Puissances avaient répondu, au mémoire de la Porte, nous avons considéré comme refus cette réponse évasive et nous vous avons expédié par le dernier courrier une Circulaire pour demander les médiations des Puissances. Dans cette Circulaire nous faisons remarquer que le principe de la décision du Congrès ne saurait être contesté par la Porte aux signataires du Traité de Berlin; que le mémoire ne nous ayant été communiqué, nous ne pouvons pas savoir si la Porte a droit à une réponse de la part des Puissances, et que, d'ailleurs, cette circonstance ne saurait porter obstacle à notre demande de médiation. En attendant l'arrivée de la Circulaire vous pouvez prévenir de notre démarche le Cabinet auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, en lui communiquant le présent télégramme.

No. 248.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 725.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, September 12, 1878.

MY verbal note respecting reforms proposed by Her Majesty's Government was submitted yesterday to Council of Ministers, and was accepted in principle. I am promised a written answer to that effect in two or three days.

Some practical difficulties will be pointed out with regard to their immediate execution, but I am distinctly assured by Grand Vizier that when those difficulties are overcome, Porte will be ready to carry out the guarantees [?] to the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 249.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 726.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, September 12, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Grand Vizier admits that some Circassian refugees have been sent [?] into Thessaly and Epirus, but far away from Greek frontiers. He says that this was done inadvertently by local authorities, and that orders will be given that no more shall be sent.

No. 250.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 727.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, September 12, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER has named Purtef Effendi Turkish Commissioner in Bulgaria under VIth Article of Treaty of Berlin. He trusts that Her Majesty's Government will at once name their Commissioner, and get the other Powers to do the same. He thinks that Consular Commission might check ill-treatment to which the Mussulmans are now exposed from Bulgarians and Russians. The appointment of Mr. Reade would be acceptable to the Porte.

No. 251.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 728.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, September 12, 1878.

SULTAN is sending 1,000*l.* to Midhat Pasha. He is to join his family in Crete, and it is probable that the Sultan will shortly name him Governor of the island.

No. 252.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 225.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, September 12, 1878.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF, who arrived here three days ago, was quite unexpected by Count Andrassy, upon whom he called the following day, but who, after the interview, was still uncertain whether he had come on a public mission or on his private account.

No. 253.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 226.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, September 13, 1878.

I AM asked by Count Andrassy to express to your Lordship his earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government will consent to join in identic note to the Porte proposed by the German Government.

He fears that the Russians are anxious to find a pretext for the non-execution of their obligations under the Treaty, by being able to allege that the Turks have neglected theirs; and he considers that by now putting this pressure on, the Powers will, if necessary, be entitled to call authoritatively on Russia to act up to its engagements.

The refusal of Her Majesty's Government to join in a representation would, he thinks, encourage the Porte in doing nothing.

I read to him your Lordship's telegram of 4·30 of the 10th, which I had already communicated through Baron Orczy, and again asked what were the particular points upon which the conduct of Turkey called for such a severe treatment.

He denied it to be severe, saying that, on the contrary, the interest of Turkey required that she should afford no excuse for evasion of portions of Treaty which were favourable to her, and that what called for remonstrance was her conduct in not evacuating the territories made over to Servia and Montenegro, in not acceding to a rectification of Greek frontier, and in allowing Albania to set itself in open defiance to the decisions of Europe.

I said that, although the Porte might be open to remonstrance with respect to two last points, it hardly appeared to me that any direct provision of the Treaty could be considered as evaded in regard to them.

No. 254.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 227. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, September 13, 1878.

COUNT ANDRASSY is convinced that Count Schouvaloff came here, as he asserts, to see a sick brother, but he had dropped some hints of an ominous nature with regard to withdrawal of the Russian troops from Turkey while anarchy prevails in Albania, and an organized resistance to the Treaty of Berlin seems being got up. Count Schouvaloff's tone was the more disquieting, as a telegram yesterday from Count

Zichy stated General Todleben was reported to have said to several persons that the shipping of the Russian troops and his own departure was to be deferred, and that he might very soon be under the necessity of buying fresh horses.

Count Schouvaloff also strongly urged upon Count Andrassy that it would be better and more straightforward for the Austro-Hungarian Government at once to [proceed to the?] open annexation of Bosnia, to which the latter answered that he would take care to do nothing of the kind, as he was resolved to keep strictly by the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 255.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, September 12, 1878.*

MY Austrian colleague informs me that certain threats having been yesterday expressed by Mahommedans in bazaar against him, the Roman Catholic Missionaries, and even the Pasha, he wrote to the latter to ask him to take precautions for the general safety. His Excellency tells me he believes he can maintain tranquility.

I strongly recommend considerable reinforcements of Asia Minor troops being quickly sent here, the Albanian troops not being trustworthy.

No. 256.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 13, 1878, 5·55 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 824, no such agreement as you mention for postponing the meeting of Eastern Roumelian Organization Commission has been made or heard of by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 257.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 13, 1878, 5 P.M.*

MR. PALGRAVE is appointed Her Majesty's Consul-General in Bulgaria, and is the Consular officer delegated *ad hoc* by Her Majesty's Government to take part in the provisional administration of the Principality.

Inform the Government to which you are accredited, and state that it seems desirable that the Commission should meet as soon as possible.

No. 258.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 13, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY is about to urge the Porte to make full inquiry into murder of Mehemet Ali, sending sufficient force to protect its procedure. You will fully support Count Zichy in that representation.

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[a] Similar telegrams were sent to Mr. Adams and Mr. Plunkett.

No. 259.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 13, 1878, 5 P.M.*

MR. PALGRAVE is appointed Her Majesty's Consul-General in Bulgaria, and is the Consular officer delegated *ad hoc* by Her Majesty's Government to take part in the provisional administration of the Principality.

Inform the Government to which you are accredited, and state that it seems desirable that the Commission should meet as soon as possible.

Urge them to name their Consul, if they have not already done so.

No. 260.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 483. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 13, 1878.*

COUNT DEYM mentioned to me to-day that General Todleben had recently said, in the presence of many witnesses, that the order for the withdrawal of the Russian army from the neighbourhood of Constantinople had been cancelled, and that he had been told to hold himself in readiness for military operations, adding that he did not know in what direction they were to be undertaken.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 261.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 483A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 13, 1878.*

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day to explain the reasons which had induced the Austrian Government to adhere to the German proposal for an identic remonstrance to the Porte on the non-execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin. These reasons appeared to resolve themselves into a belief that the Porte could do more in Bosnia and Albania if it chose, that its attitude was equivocal, that, although the Grand Vizier was honestly striving to fulfil the terms of the Treaty, the Turkish officials in the disturbed provinces were openly encouraging the insurrection, and that some of those most connected with it had been seen coming in and out of the Sultan's Palace. He added that the Austrian Government knew from a sure source that the Sultan, so far from lamenting the insurrection, looked upon it as a remarkable proof of the attachment of the Albanians to his person.

Count Deym expressed the warm obligation of the Austrian Government to Her Majesty's Government for their support at Constantinople, and urged that we should join in a representation which Count Zichy had been instructed to make to the Porte to order an inquiry into the death of Mehemet Ali Pasha, and to send a sufficient force to the district where he was murdered to maintain order.

I promised to give instructions to that effect, but reminded Count Deym that the poverty of the Porte was extreme, and its power of moving troops at this moment very doubtful.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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[a] Similar telegrams were sent to Sir H. Elliot and Mr. Macdonell.

No. 262.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 484.)

Foreign Office, September 13, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Bosna Serai,* containing information in regard to the present condition of affairs in Bosnia, with especial reference to the Mussulman insurrection in the Spreca Valley, the recent execution of insurgent leaders, and the grievances of Mussulman landowners; and I have to request you to communicate the substance of this Report to the Austro-Hungarian Government for their confidential information.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 263.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.†

(No. 486.)

Foreign Office, September 13, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Sir H. Drummond-Wolff and of the reply which I have addressed to him on the question whether, by Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, the Porte has engaged to take the advice of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia on the subject of the modifications to be introduced in the Règlement Organique of Crete.‡

I should be glad if you could ascertain the view taken by the Government to which you are accredited of the construction to be placed on the Article in question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 264.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1088.)

Foreign Office, September 13, 1878.

Sir,

I LEARNED with some surprise from your telegram No. 824 of the 12th instant that the Russian Ambassador had spoken to you of an agreement between the Powers for postponing the meeting of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia until the 2nd of next month.

I have informed your Excellency in reply that no such agreement has been entered into or even heard of by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 264*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1092.)

Foreign Office, September 13, 1878.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government understand that Count Zichy has received instructions to urge the Porte to make full inquiry into the circumstances of the murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha, sending a sufficient force to protect the Commissioners charged with this investigation.

I have telegraphed to your Excellency requesting you to lend your cordial support to Count Zichy's representations on this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 58.

† Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Plunkett, Mr. Adams, Mr. Dering, and Mr. Macdonell.

‡ Nos. 81 and 163.

No. 265.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

(No. 429A.)

Foreign Office, September 13, 1878.

Sir,

THE German Chargé d'Affaires asked me to-day what course Her Majesty's Government proposed to take on the receipt of the Circular of the Greek Government appealing to the mediation of the Powers, which was believed to be now on its way. I replied that, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty, England would offer her mediation to Turkey and Greece, first consulting with her allies upon the form and mode of doing so; but Her Majesty's Government would carefully abstain from any language from which an intention on their part of ultimately appealing to force could be deduced.

Baron von Brincken appeared to think that his Government would also observe the same precaution in dealing with this question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 266.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

(No. 429B.)

Foreign Office, September 13, 1878.

Sir,

THE German Chargé d'Affaires called to-day and stated that, while the Austrian and Russian Governments had assented to the proposal of the German Government for identic representations to the Porte in regard to the non-execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, France and Italy had made their acquiescence conditional on the concurrence of the other Powers. Under these circumstances the German Government would, he said, abstain from pressing any further its proposal for the present.

I expressed my gratification at this announcement, and pointed out that the view of Her Majesty's Government had been justified by the events which had happened since the matter first came under discussion. The cession of Batoum had shown that the Porte was fully alive to her obligations, while the omission of the Russians to deliver up Erzeroum would make it inevitable that, if any such identic remonstrance were to be addressed to Turkey, a similar representation should at the same time be made to Russia. The other event to which I referred was the death of Mehemet Ali Pasha, which sufficiently showed that the power of the Porte over its subjects in the mountainous districts near the north-west frontiers of the Empire was not sufficient to save the life of one of its most trusted Marshals.

I remarked, at the same time, that although I did not think that the time had come for a measure so strong as the presentation of an identic note, England was as anxious as any of the Powers for the execution of the Treaty, and had, both in regard to Bosnia and Batoum, addressed its counsels in very earnest language to the Porte.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 267.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 409.)

Rome, September 11, 1878.

My Lord,

THE following are the Commissioners appointed by the Italian Government in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin:—

For Eastern Roumelia, the Chevalier Vernoni, Chief Interpreter of the Italian Legation at Constantinople.

For Bulgaria, the Chevalier Degobernatis, Italian Consul at Rustchuk.

For the delimitation of the frontiers of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, Lieutenant-Colonel Orero.

For the delimitation of the Servian frontier, Lieutenant Colonel Gola.

For the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier, Lieutenant-Colonel Oltolenghi.

With the exception of Colonel Oltolenghi, who has been called to Rome to await further orders, the above-named functionaries are at their posts, and ready to enter on their functions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 268.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 13, 1878.*

FRENCH Government have informed German Government that after their Circular of last month to French Representatives, as to necessity of full execution of Berlin Treaty, they accept German note in principle, but think present moment inopportune, especially owing to murder of Mehemet Ali and giving up of Batoum.

No. 269.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 13, 1878.*

FRENCH Ambassador at Constantinople is instructed that French Government consider that Philippopolis should be the head-quarters of the Commission, with provision that they may go to Constantinople if and when found necessary.

No. 270.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 712.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 13, 1878.*

M. DESPREZ informed me to-day that M. Waddington has instructed the French Ambassador at Berlin to state to the German Government that, after the Circular which he had addressed last month to the French Representatives with reference to the full execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, the French Government accepted in principle the German note as to joining in an identic remonstrance to the Porte for not executing certain of those provisions, but that they were of opinion that this step should not be taken at once, as the present moment seemed inopportune, especially since the murder of Mehemet Ali, and as Batoum had now been given up by Turkey to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 271.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 710.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 13, 1878.*

M. DESPREZ informed me to-day that the French Ambassador at Constantinople has been told that the French Government consider that Philippopolis should be the head-quarters of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, with the proviso that, if it were found necessary at any time, they will proceed to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 272.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 717.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 13, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 574 of the 9th instant, and to my despatch No. 705 of the 11th instant, I learnt from M. Desprez to-day that the French Government are disposed to accept the independence of Servia and Roumania on the same conditions as Her Majesty's Government, as stated in your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 273.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 820.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 14, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Biliotti, dated yesterday :—

"French Consul, arrived from Erzeroum, reports that Russian troops were concentrated in town, whose evacuation was to begin on 9th, and end in a few days."

En clair.

No. 274.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 14, 1878.*

REPORTS circulated of Russian subsidies to Servia, on condition of not disbanding Servian troops until complete execution of Berlin Treaty, categorically denied by Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and Russian Agent.

The latter, however, has admitted to me, confidentially, that at urgent request of Servia, which is in great financial difficulties, arrears of subsidies due for their co-operation in late war, either have been or are about to be paid up by him.

Above communicated to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 275.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 14, 1878.*

AUSTRIAN, French, and Russian Delegates to Frontier Commission have arrived, and their German and Italian colleagues are expected immediately. The Commission ought to have been assembled by the 13th; and the season being already so far advanced, they are anxious to commence operations, but fear their task cannot be concluded this year.

No. 276.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 14, 1878.*

THE Sultan is accused of secretly countenancing the insurgents in Albania and Bosnia. If any such action has been taken, it is in the highest degree unwise. The disturbances which are the result of resistance to the Austrians and Montenegrins are the opportunity of all his enemies. Greece is evidently preparing for an attack. Todleben has received orders countermanding retirement from Constantinople. Rumours are current that the party now dominant in Austria has revived the scheme

for dividing the Balkan peninsula between Austria and Russia. Unless the Sultan does his utmost to carry out Treaty of Berlin, there is the gravest danger to his Empire in Europe.

No. 277.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1094. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1878.

IT is alleged that the insurgents in Albania and Bosnia are secretly countenanced by the Sultan. I have telegraphed to your Excellency to mention these reports, and to state that if His Majesty has really taken any action of this nature his conduct has been in the highest degree unwise. The disturbances which are now resulting from resistance to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia, and to the annexation of territory ceded to Montenegro, are the opportunity of all the enemies of Turkey. The consequences are already apparent. Greece is evidently preparing for an attack. General Todleben is stated to have received orders countermanding those previously sent for the withdrawal of the Russian forces before Constantinople. Rumours are, moreover, current that the scheme which was formerly proposed for a division of the Balkan Peninsula from north to south between Austria and Russia has been revived by the party now dominant at the Court of Vienna.

Her Majesty's Government feel it their duty to warn the Sultan that unless he uses his utmost efforts to carry into execution the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, his Empire in Europe is threatened with the gravest dangers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 278.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1096. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1878.

I APPROVE the representation which your Excellency made to the Sultan with regard to the misconduct of Djevdet Pasha, Governor-General of Syria, as reported in your despatch No. 1072, marked Confidential, of the 27th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 279.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 14, 1878.

RUSSIAN Ambassador has given Grand Vizier draft of the proposed Treaty, which I have seen. It contains six Articles.

The principal is that relating to the indemnity of 300,000,000 roubles, the mode of payment of which and the guarantees for which are to be agreed upon between Russia and the Porte; 10,000,000 roubles are to be paid as indemnity to Russian subjects and institutions; the claims of the former are to be examined by Russian Embassy alone, and then to be communicated to the Porte for payment.

Perpetual peace and friendship are established between the two nations; the Articles of the Treaty of San Stefano not abrogated or changed by the Treaty of Berlin are confirmed; Treaty of Berlin is declared to be obligatory between Russia and Turkey, and between them and its other signatories; and all previous Treaties and Conventions of Commerce between the two Powers remain in force.

No. 280.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 830.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 14, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Biliotti, dated yesterday:—

"Evacuation of Batoum completed; Dervish Pasha remaining; troops and stores arrived this morning; 200 Turkish soldiers were left at Batoum to accompany 1,200 prisoners hourly expected from Poti. Turkish transport starts this evening to embark them."

No. 281.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 832.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 14, 1878.

I HAVE brought to the serious notice of the Sultan the dangers which threaten the Christian population of Armenia on the withdrawal of the Russian troops, and the statements which I have received that the Armenians, seized with a panic, may probably follow Russian army in large numbers across the borders. I have strongly urged upon His Majesty to take immediate measures to protect them, and to send an Armenian at once as Mutessarif, or in some other analogous capacity, to reassure them.

He has promised to do so, and gave orders to this effect to the Grand Vizier in my presence. He was unwilling to change the Vali as I suggested, as he is a Kurd, and will, he thinks, exercise greater influence over the Kurds than any other Governor; but he will send him the most stringent orders to protect Christians. Sultan [also ?] proposes to establish an extraordinary Tribunal or Commission in Armenia which will deal summarily with complaints of Christians. I have warned him of the serious consequences which must inevitably ensue if outrages or massacres of Christians should occur after the evacuation of Armenia by the Russians.

No. 282.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 833.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 14, 1878.

I URGED the Sultan this afternoon to come to an agreement with Austria and to accept Convention. I found him exceedingly irritated against Austria. He said that information had reached him that Austrian troops were committing great cruelties upon Mussulman population in Bosnia, and that the object of Austria was to exterminate it. How, he asked, could he, as Sovereign and Caliph, give his sanction to this state of things by agreeing to a Convention which simply handed over the province and its inhabitants to Austria? He begged me to ask Her Majesty's Government from him to intercede with the Austrian Government not to destroy the Mahommedans, but if it were determined that they should no longer remain in the province, to allow them to emigrate into Albania.

I used every argument to prevail upon the Sultan to agree to Convention, but although he ended by saying that he would consider the matter, I think that he will not give way.

The proceedings of the Austrians, as reported to him, have caused him great distress.

No. 283.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 834. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 14, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of this morning I have just returned from an interview with the Sultan at which I endeavoured to make him understand extreme danger there was to his Empire in Europe in the present state of affairs, and the importance of carrying out at once Treaty of Berlin. He solemnly declared that it was his intention and wish to do so.

I see an evident design on the part of Russian and Austrian Ambassadors here to accuse the Sultan of countenancing the insurgents in Bosnia and Albania, and to make him personally responsible for what is taking place. I have already brought this to the notice of the Grand Vizier, and have pointed out to him the extreme importance of not furnishing any grounds for such an accusation.

He led me to think that he was not without [some?] suspicion that communications were going on between the insurgents and the Palace. I will do all I possibly can to open the Sultan's eyes to the danger you point out; but I see that he is excessively irritated at [what?] the Austrians are doing in Bosnia, and that it will be very difficult to make him listen to reason. Grand Vizier, although honest and well meaning, is unfortunately very weak.

No. 284.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 835.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 14, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL CALVERT informs me that secret instructions have been sent to the Imperial officials of Bulgaria who are at Philippopolis, inciting the Bulgarian peasantry to come to town *en masse*, and to make a monster demonstration against re-annexation to Turkey on the arrival of the International Commission.

Mr. Calvert asks me to authorize him to spend 30*l.* or 40*l.* to obtain copy of these instructions and information regarding secret proceedings to frustrate the [plan of the?] International Commission.

Shall I do so?

No. 285.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 14, 1878.*

GERMAN COMMISSIONER has done nothing but impress on me and Austrian, desirability of listening to what Russian has to say. He is evidently a very inferior man, and seems to be repeating a lesson by heart. Last night, at Missery's, General Skobeloff stated in conversation before Assistant Commissioner that it was intended to keep an army of 45,000 men in the country south of the Balkan during the winter, and over 100,000 in Bulgaria.

Turkish Commissioner not yet named.

Assistant Commissioner left this morning.

Austrian Commissioner still very friendly, and desirous of acting with me.

No. 286.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 14, 1878.*

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT accepts your Lordship's proposal that Commission for Eastern Roumelia should sit at Philippopolis.

Italian Consul at Rustchuk is at his post ready to act as Italian Delegate in the provisional administration of Bulgaria.

No. 287.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 473.) [B. B.]
My Lord, *Athens, September 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, with reference to Mr. Wyndham's No. 413 of the 17th July, 1878, M. Delyanni instructed yesterday the Greek Minister at Constantinople to request an answer to the Greek note; and should the Porte refuse an answer, or delay in giving one, the Greek Government would look upon it as a refusal to fulfil the recommendation of Berlin Congress, and Greece would then immediately appeal to Great Powers to mediate.

I have communicated the above to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 288.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 475.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Athens, September 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, with reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, should the Porte not return a favourable answer to the Greek Government by next Friday evening, the Great Powers will be appealed to on Saturday to mediate.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 289.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 476.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Athens, September 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Greek Government have sent a Commission, composed of military officers, to San Stefano, to purchase 1,000 horses from the Russians, who, it is understood, intend to dispose of a large number before withdrawing their army from Turkey,

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 290.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 753.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 3, 1878.*

I CALLED this morning upon Baron Osten Sacken, and left with him the Memorandum, copy of which is herewith inclosed, urging, in compliance with your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, that the Russian Government would remit, or, at least, suspend, the sentence of death which had been passed at Philippopolis upon Hadji Arif Agha. I explained to Baron Osten Sacken the circumstances under which the sentence had been passed, and, pointing out both the hardship of the case

and its injustice, I requested him to telegraph my Memorandum at once to M. de Giers, and to beg for an early reply.

Baron Osten Sacken promised to forward my communication immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 290.

Memorandum.

CONFORMÉMENT aux instructions du Marquis de Salisbury, je prie le Département des Affaires Etrangères de vouloir bien porter par télégraphe le fait mentionné à la connaissance de son Excellence M. de Giers, et de lui faire parvenir le vif espoir du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique que dans cette affaire le Gouvernement Impérial verra moyen d'user de clémence envers un vieillard de position dont le crime, si même il en est coupable, a été commis en temps de guerre.

Le $\frac{27 \text{ Juillet}}{8 \text{ Août}}$ Mr. Calvert a annoncé de Philippopoli que la police Russo-Bulgare avait arrêté Hadji Arif Agha, le plus influent des notables Turcs, âgé de 70 ans, l'avait jeté dans la prison réservée pour les criminels les plus infâmes, et lui avaient défendu toute communication avec ses parents et ses amis.

Cette arrestation était motivée à ce qu'on disait par le fait que Hadji Arif Agha était soupçonné d'avoir pris part à la formation des corps irréguliers qui accompagnèrent les expéditions en automne dernier à Karlova et Kalofer. Quatorze de ses amis souscrirent un document se rendant responsables sous cautionnement de sa bonne conduite.

Le Grand Vizir annonce maintenant à Sir A. H. Layard que Hadji Arif Agha vient d'être condamné à mort. Son Altesse a protesté contre cette sentence auprès du Prince Labanoff au nom de la justice et de l'humanité, en lui rappelant que conformément aux Traités de San Stefano et de Berlin, la Porte a accordé une amnestie générale à tous les Bulgares, et que, en plus, les prisonniers Bulgares ont déjà partout été mis liberté.

Le Marquis de Salisbury me charge de porter ces faits sans retard à la connaissance de son Excellence M. de Giers dans l'espoir que Sa Majesté l'Empereur verra la justice de cette représentation et daignera annuler, ou au moins suspendre, la sentence de mort prononcée contre Hadji Arif Agha. Le moment paraît d'autant plus opportun pour un tel acte que le régime militaire est à la veille d'être remplacé dans la Roumélie Orientale par une administration civile régulièrement établie.

St. Pétersbourg, le 3 Septembre, 1878.

No. 291.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 761.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 5*, 1878.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires lately inquired of the Russian Government whether, in view of the disturbed state of the districts which are about to be ceded to Montenegro, it would not be better to postpone for the present the meeting of the Commission which is to define the new frontiers of that Principality; and he also inquired whether the Russian Government did not agree with that of Austria that one Commission of delimitation would suffice to lay down the boundaries both of Bulgaria and of Eastern Roumelia.

M. de Giers has telegraphed from Livadia that he cannot agree with the Austrian Government on either of these points; on the contrary, he considers that the troubled state of Montenegro is the very reason why the Montenegrin Delimitation Commission should meet promptly, and he urges that the task confided to the Bulgarian Delimitation Commission is too heavy for it also to undertake the delimitation of the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 292.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 764.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 6*, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 753 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the note in which Baron Osten Sacken informs me that no answer can be given to your Lordship's representations in favour of Hadji Arif Agha until it is known what decision has been come to by the Commander-in-chief, who will certainly act in a sense of justice and impartiality.

This answer seemed to me so unsatisfactory that I immediately called upon Baron Osten Sacken to express my regret at not having received at least some assurance that the representation of Her Majesty's Government would be taken into consideration, and I urged him to press M. de Giers again on the subject.

Baron Osten Sacken declined to telegraph again, but said he would write to M. de Giers by this evening's post.

I reminded Baron Osten Sacken of the rapidity with which military sentences were often carried out, and how several days had already been lost in the references from Constantinople to London, St. Petersburgh, Livadia, and back here again; I pointed out the injustice it would be, so long after the war was over, to condemn a man for a crime committed (even if one had been committed) in time of war, and I said that as the Turks, in conformity with the Treaties of San Stefano and Berlin, had granted a general amnesty to the Bulgarians, it was only just that a similar leniency of treatment should be extended to the Mussulman population.

Baron Osten Sacken said that he did not recollect that in either Treaty there was any mention of an amnesty to be granted to the Turks, and he pointed to the XXVIIth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano, which provides that the Sublime Porte shall not proceed against any Ottoman subject who may have been compromised during the war, but makes no mention of any reciprocal engagement to be taken by the Russians, as a distinct admission that Russia was in no way bound to grant an amnesty to the Turks.

I said that even if the letter of the Treaty might appear to justify such an agreement, I could not believe that the Russian Government would take advantage of what could only have been an oversight, to act in a manner which would be contrary to the ordinary rules of justice, and in opposition to the common practice of civilized warfare.

Baron Osten Sacken said Russia would always do what was just; he merely wished to remind me that there was no Treaty engagement which could be quoted against her in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 292.

Baron Osten Sacken to Mr. Plunkett.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *St. Pétersbourg, le 6 Septembre*, 1878.

JE suis chargé par M. de Giers de vous dire que nous ne saurions donner aucune réponse à la demande de Lord Salisbury en faveur de Hadji Arif Agha, avant de connaître les décisions prises par le Commandant-en-chef, qui se prononcera certainement dans un esprit d'impartialité et de parfaite justice.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SACKEN.

No. 293.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 16.)

(No. 772.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 11*, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 450 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to observe that, in the absence of M. de Giers at Livadia, the only way I

have of communicating to him such details as your Lordship may instruct me to bring to his notice is in writing.

I have therefore addressed to him the note, copy of which is herewith inclosed, informing his Excellency of the outrage which was reported by Mr. Consul-General Fawcett as having been committed on the inhabitants of a Turkish village, and expressing the great concern with which Her Majesty's Government have heard that such an outrage could be committed within a short distance of where the Commission in which Russia herself is represented was sitting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 293.

Mr. Plunkett to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel, *St. Petersburgh, August 29/September 10,* 1878.

I HAVE received instructions from the Marquis of Salisbury to call your Excellency's attention to an attack made by some Russian soldiers on the inhabitants of a Turkish village within a short distance of where the Rhodope Commission was at that time holding its sittings.

Writing from Haskeui on the 9th August, Mr. Consul-General Fawcett states:—

"We found another Turkish village completely destroyed, and the Djamé burned and gutted. Before leaving the neutral zone, while resting in a burnt village, a poor group came up to us consisting of two old men, a starved-looking woman, and a child. They related that the very day before, at a place only three hours' from where we were (Karabaler), they with twelve others, five men and seven women, had gone into the fields to try and get in some of their own harvest. Shortly after some Russian soldiers appeared, and commenced firing upon them. These three and the child escaped; what became of the rest they knew not; they feared they were killed. If such crimes can be perpetrated under the very eyes of the Commission, what can you think is going on in other districts where there is no protection?"

In communicating the above sad details to your Excellency, I am to express to you the great concern with which Her Majesty's Government have heard of an outrage committed on a part of the population inoffensively employed at the very moment when the Commission, in which Russia is represented, and which is intended to devise measures for their relief, was actually sitting in the vicinity of the place where the attack was made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 294.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 16.*)

(No. 773.) *St. Petersburgh, September 11,* 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the note which I have addressed to M. de Giers, bringing to his notice, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 458 of the 29th ultimo, the facts mentioned in Mr. Consul Reade's despatch to Sir A. H. Layard respecting the cruel treatment inflicted on the Mussulman refugees who are returning to their homes in Bulgaria.

I have also expressed in the note to his Excellency the hope of Her Majesty's Government that measures may be taken to insure to these unfortunate people protection and humane treatment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 294.

Mr. Plunkett to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel, *St. Petersburgh, August 29/September 10,* 1878.

IN compliance with instructions which I have received from the Marquis of Salisbury, I have to bring to your Excellency's knowledge two extracts from despatches which have been received from Mr. Consul Reade, and which clearly prove the terrible hardships experienced by the unfortunate Mussulman refugees who have been induced to return to their homes in Bulgaria upon the assurances of the Russian authorities that they should be protected from ill-treatment.

In bringing these details to your Excellency's notice, I have further to express the hope which Her Majesty's Government entertain that the Imperial Government will lose no time in taking measures to insure that these unfortunate Mussulman refugees shall receive protection and humane treatment from the Russian authorities in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 294.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Extract.) *Varna, August 5,* 1878.

IN my despatch of the 30th ultimo, amongst other cruelties on the part of the Russians against the refugees sent from Shumla to Rasgrad, I stated that after having been revoltingly searched for arms three times between the two places they were driven like herds of animals into the "salhané" or slaughter-house of the latter place.

I was yesterday officially informed that it had been reported to the authorities at Shumla that most of these unfortunate emigrants were still in the "salhané," and that some had already succumbed to the horrors they have been the victims of.

Inclosure 3 in No. 294.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Extract.) *Varna, July 30,* 1878.

THE refugees, from their recent sad experience, were loth to move; but when General Stoltipine called the Chiefs and spoke to them in most assuring terms, they consented, and were sent off in batches, according to the direction of each company.

The following are the sickening details of what they suffered from their obedience to the Commission:—

The first troop left for Rasgrad, and on arriving at about a quarter of an hour's distance from Durankeui, the first Russian post, all the refugees without distinction or regard of age or sex, had to submit to a most indecent and repulsive search for arms by Russo-Bulgar employés, who groped with their hands amongst the clothes and persons of the women and girls in particular, and forced open their boxes and packages, scattering the effects all about, and seizing any object of value they came across, and when they happened to find any arm they cynically offered it to the owner for an insignificant sum, not allowing him, of course, to have it back.

This outrageous proceeding lasted the whole day.

In the morning they were marched to Durankeui, where they had to undergo a similar ordeal.

On the third day they were taken to the suburbs of Rasgrad, where, instead of men, Bulgar women and boys of 14 or 15 years of age actually stripped the poor half-dead women and girls almost naked, searching for arms all about their persons, notwithstanding the two previous disgusting examinations.

But these odious proceedings did not cease here.

The poor terror-stricken emigrants were then driven like herds of animals into the public slaughter-house (Salhané) of Rasgrad, where they were kept for several days exposed to the fearful odour and filth of such places, to the broiling sun, and

to the tortures of hunger, for the authorities of Shumla could only afford them food for two days more than the time necessary to take them without halting to their homes.

In the slaughter-house the refugees were informed:—

1. That those who had taken part in the Servian or late war could not remain in the country.

2. All that were allowed to remain were inexorably required to produce Bulgar guarantees for their honesty and morality.

3. Those whose villages were in mountainous or wooded situations, under pretence of these being strategical positions, even if they produced the requisite guarantees, were not to remain.

4. Those whose houses were occupied by Bulgars, even with guarantees, must go.

5. All persons well off were told that they must leave the country, and were not informed of the reason of this cruel act of injustice.

I myself saw four well-known Rasgrad notables, of unexceptionable character, who had been sent off without being told why. These men said to me that their only fault was that they were better off than most of their fellow-townsmen.

Then those of Rasgrad, who were told that they could remain, entered the town, but could not obtain possession of their houses.

Of the seven Mussulman quarters of Rasgrad five were occupied by Bulgars, the other two were allotted to Cossacks. Several found only the ruins of their houses, which had been destroyed or burnt. The house of Ahmed Agha Helvajyzade was actually burnt in his presence.

Such is only part of what was told me by Rasgrad and other refugees.

The same occurred to the emigrants of Eski-Djuma and Osman-Bazar, as related to me by several of them, and which was confirmed by others.

At Osman-Bazar the refugees had not only to submit to all this, but they were afterwards actually forced by the Bulgar Acting Kaïmakam to sign a paper in Turkish, declaring that they were satisfied with his conduct.

I myself was present at the railway station at Rustchuk on Friday evening last, when another party arrived there from Shumla, who were at once searched for arms by the Russians and Bulgars, with much roughness and violence; but from large numbers of foreigners being present the search was not of quite so revolting a character as those which have been described, and which were effected where there were none who could possibly take the part of the poor refugees.

The natural consequence of all this treatment is that the remaining refugees in Shumla, still a very large number, are so terror-stricken that they now cannot be persuaded to move, and are imploring the Turkish Commissioners not to abandon them to a certain fate. Sivri Pasha addressed a very strong protest to General Stoltipine, the Russian Commissioner, and thus the matter stands for the present.

In the meantime the Russian forces are closing in round Shumla, and consequently the difficulties in the repatriation of the refugees will most certainly be increased.

No. 295.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 777.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, September 11, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, informing me of the answer which Her Majesty's Government have returned to the proposal of an identic note, urging the Porte to carry out the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, I have the honour to state that M. de Giers, in answer to the inquiry made by the German Chargé d'Affaires, has telegraphed from Livadia the readiness of the Russian Government to join in the proposed communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 296.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 519.)
My Lord,

Berlin, September 8, 1878.

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of the 7th instant yesterday evening, and at once called upon Herr von Bülow, who has now resumed his official duties at the Foreign Office, and pointed out to his Excellency the discrepancy between the information derived by your Lordship from the Paris Foreign Office and that furnished to me by Herr von Radowitz on the subject of the adhesion of France to the proposal made to the Signatory Powers by the German Government in their note of the 2nd instant, and added I should feel very grateful to him if he would enable me to explain the matter to your Lordship.

Herr von Bülow, alluding to his return that morning only from leave of absence, said he had only had time to look quickly through all the latest information received by the Government. He was, however, certain that M. Waddington had spoken to Prince Hohenlohe in a sense favourable to the German proposal, although he could not at that moment recollect the exact terms used. His Excellency said that I had been correct in reporting that, in a general way, the French Government, as well as that of Austria and Russia, agreed with Germany in this manner.

If I wished it, his Excellency said, he would refer to the papers, and communicate with me in writing upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 297.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 525.)
My Lord,

Berlin, September 14, 1878.

IN conformity with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram dated yesterday, I have informed the German Government of the appointment of Mr. Palgrave as Her Majesty's Consul-General in Bulgaria, and that he was the Consul designed *ad hoc* by Her Majesty's Government under the VIth Clause of the Treaty of Berlin to take part in the provisional administration of the Principality. I further informed his Excellency that it appeared desirable to Her Majesty's Government that this Commission should meet as soon as possible.

Herr von Bülow thanked me for this communication, and said that Herr Bruning, German Consul at Beyrouth, was designated for that same post, but that it would probably be a fortnight before he would proceed there. The German Government were waiting till communications similar to that I had just made had shown them that all the other Powers were ready to commence their task. Herr Bruning had formerly been German Consul at Trebizond, and was eminently fitted from his knowledge of the East for this new appointment.

Colonel von Schierff, Captain Krühmer, and Major Alten, who have been respectively appointed for the delimitation of Roumelia, Servia, and Bulgaria, have already left for their destination. The Commission for the delimitation of Montenegro had not yet been selected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 298.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 527.)
My Lord,

Berlin, September 12, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 519 of the 8th instant, I took an opportunity to-day of asking Herr von Bülow if he had anything further to add to the information he gave me on the evening of the 7th instant on the subject of the French view of a collective representation to be made by the Great Powers to the Porte.

His Excellency replied that he had been in communication with Prince Hohenlohe, who was now in Berlin, and also with Baron von Brineken on the subject, and he

had requested Baron von Brincken to speak to your Lordship on the matter. His Excellency merely recapitulated to me what he had said before about the general nature of the language held by M. Waddington to the German Ambassador in Paris, but said that it appeared now that before coming to any positive decision the Powers would wait till all were agreed as to the course to be pursued. Germany, for one, was quite prepared to do so, and by no means wished to precipitate matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 299.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 718.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 14, 1878.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of 5 P.M. yesterday, I have informed the French Government that Mr. Palgrave has been appointed Her Majesty's Consul-General in Bulgaria, and that he is the Consular Officer delegated *ad hoc* by Her Majesty's Government to take part in the provisional administration of the Principality in question.

I have also stated that it appears to be desirable that the Commission for the Principality should meet as soon as it is possible for it to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 300.

Count Andrassy to Count Deym.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Deym, September 16.)

(Télégraphique.) *Vienne, le 15 Septembre, 1878.*

VOUS pouvez communiquer au Marquis de Salisbury, à titre strictement confidentiel, que notre Ambassadeur à Constantinople nous mande par télégramme en date du 13 courant que l'évacuation des environs de Constantinople par les troupes Russes n'a pas été contremandée; mais les troupes ont reçu l'ordre de quitter les positions occupées près de Constantinople et au midi de la ligne de Constantinople-Andrinople pour se retirer au delà de cette ligne, et pour opérer leur jonction avec l'armée qui se trouve déjà à l'ouest d'Andrinople, sur la frontière de la Roumélie Orientale, où une armée de 200,000 hommes doit rester pour s'assurer contre toute éventualité en vue d'une insurrection en Albanie ou ailleurs.

No. 301.

Count Andrassy to Count Deym.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Deym, September 16.)

(Télégraphique.) *Vienne, le 15 Septembre, 1878.*

VEUILLEZ remercier Lord Salisbury des instructions qu'il a bien voulu donner à Sir H. Layard au sujet des mesures à recommander à la Porte.

Nous admettons parfaitement la difficulté pour la Porte d'envoyer de suite en Albanie des troupes Turcs d'un nombre suffisant, mais nous croyons cependant devoir lui demander à faire son possible pour mettre fin à l'anarchie qui y règne.

On nous nomme de tous côtés les mêmes personnes comme les chefs et faiseurs des troubles en Albanie et comme les instigateurs de l'assassinat de Mehemet Ali. Ces personnes sont les chefs Arnautes, Ahamed Effendi, Koronitza Illias Pacha, Hassan Pacha, de Kalkandellen; Derwich Boy, de Zuina; Vulnazif Pacha, à Pristina, Muttesarif Kiamil Bey, à Prisrend. Nous avons chargé le Comte Zichy de demander à la Porte si elle ne peut destituer ces personnes, de leur faire au moins savoir par télégramme qu'elle les rendait personnellement responsables, et de déclarer en même temps à la Porte que nous la tiendrions responsable de tout délai et des conséquences qui pourraient en résulter. Nous avons été obligé de le faire parce que l'action des Albanais se dirige contre la Serbie et le Monténégro, et qu'il nous importe beaucoup de prévenir

des complications qui nous toucheraient nous-mêmes et qui nous forceraient à une coopération avec ces Principautés.

Priez Lord Salisbury de vouloir charger Sir H. Layard de seconder les efforts du Comte Zichy, d'autant plus qu'on nous mande que notre Consulat à Prisrend, le clergé et les Chrétiens de cet endroit sont menacés d'un danger imminent.

No. 302.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 836.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 15, 1878.*

IT appears to me very important that a good Consul should be sent without loss of time to Erzeroum. The state of affairs in Armenia is, by all accounts, critical; and as the Russians withdraw the Mussulmans may revenge themselves upon the Christians.

Outrages are already reported, and further telegrams from Erzeroum confirm panic among Armenians, which is very probably encouraged by the Russians, and may lead to serious disasters.

No. 303.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 837.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 15, 1878.*

SULTAN and Grand Vizier tell me that if a loan could be raised upon revenues of any particular province or provinces in Asia Minor they would be ready to confide their collection to an Englishman recommended by Her Majesty's Government. This might be a first step towards carrying out one of the reforms we require. The Turkish bondholders might be induced to agree to assign part of the revenues of the Empire as a guarantee for a loan which, if applied under proper supervision, would restore order in the country, and enable the Porte to introduce reforms which would increase its resources to the advantage of the creditors themselves, who cannot hope to get paid in the present disorganized state of the Empire. Sultan authorized me to submit this proposal to your Lordship. I think it worthy of consideration. Porte is in the most urgent want of money, and we might make use of its need to obtain some control over the administration of an important province in Asiatic Turkey.

No. 304.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 838.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 16, 1878.*

I HAVE received telegrams from persons stating that they represent Mahommedan and Christian populations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, complaining of invasion of their country by Austria, and of the destruction of their property and of the massacres of their men, women, and children. They implore Her Majesty's Government to stop advance of the Austrian troops until they can save their lives by leaving the provinces.

No. 305.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 228.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, September 16, 1878.

I HAVE communicated your telegram of the 13th to Count Andrassy, who concurs in thinking it desirable that Consular Commission for Bulgaria should be constituted. He has selected the Consul-General at Bucharest as Austrian member of the Commission.

No. 306.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 229.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, September 16, 1878.

REPORTS from different quarters convince Count Andrassy that Kiamil Bey, Governor of Prisrend, is largely responsible for the death of Mehemet Ali Pasha, and for the organization of the Albanian League.

He is also much dissatisfied at hearing that Maz [?] Pasha, whose conduct at Bosna-Serai was equivocal, has been sent as Governor to Mitrovitza, but he believes if this and other Turkish functionaries were to be told that they would be held responsible for safety of Consuls and Christians, which is now supposed to be threatened, it would keep things quiet till trustworthy troops arrive.

He again said that if hostilities break out between Turks and Montenegrins, the Austrian troops, much against his wish, may be obliged to make common cause with the latter.

No. 307.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 490.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, September 16, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 745 of the 24th ultimo, and I have to express to you my approval of the manner in which you brought to the notice of M. de Giers the complaints which have reached Her Majesty's Government as to attacks made by the Russian troops on the Mussulman population in the Rhodope districts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 308.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 19.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, September 16, 1878.

I HAVE read with much interest your despatches Nos. 12 and 13, marked "Most Confidential," of the 26th and 27th ultimo, relating the substance of your conversations with Parnes Effendi.

Your language, as reported in those despatches, is entirely approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 309.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 1093. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a further interesting letter from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, which gives an account of the proceedings of the Russians at Philippopolis, and of the ill-treatment of the Mussulmans who have ventured to return to their villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 309.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopolis, August 28, 1878.

I ONCE more take the liberty to address your Excellency privately to inform you that my French colleague, M. Boysset, who returned from Constantinople to-day in the same train with Prince Dondoukoff, had a conversation with the Imperial Commissioner, in which the latter made remarks in regard to the re-occupation of Philippopolis by the Turks, somewhat similar to those which he made to me in the conversation which I reported to your Excellency privately on the 17th instant.

He said there could be no doubt that the Bulgarians would oppose the re-annexation of Eastern Roumelia to Turkey, and Russia would not interfere to prevent them from doing so. He said, "Quand les officiers de milice nommés par la Porte arriveront, les Bulgares leur mettront des baïonnettes dans le ventre, et ce ne sera certainement pas les Russes qui interviendront contre leurs anciens frères d'armes."

I need hardly say that, without encouragement from the Russians, the Bulgarians would never dream of opposing the establishment of a state of things which a year ago they would have accepted with enthusiasm. Dr. Buckle of the "Alexandra," who has lately performed a trip to Sofia, will no doubt have informed your Excellency, as he intended to do, that the Bulgarian peasants in several villages of this district which he visited had no idea of revolting and were even ignorant of the so-called peasants' protest of the 13th instant. I have also questioned inhabitants of two of the villages which signed the protest, and found that so far from having any wish to revolt, they were quite satisfied with the prospect of the remodelled administration granted to them by the Congress.

The Russians, foreseeing the impossibility of stirring up a revolt among the apathetic peasantry, have made haste to form a Bulgarian army, which, officered by the men who commanded the original "Legion," they are doing their utmost to imbue with the patriotic ardour necessary to bring them into collision with the Turks. No means will be neglected to accomplish this end, and from the confidence with which the educated Bulgarians of Philippopolis anticipate that the Russians will return to their assistance should they (the Bulgars) be hard pressed by the Turks, it is clear that promises of such assistance, in the extremity I refer to, must have been already made by the Russians.

The liberty which, now more than ever, the Russians are allowing to the Bulgarians, to deal pretty much as they like with the Turkish inhabitants, is, perhaps, another indication of the same policy.

I fear that the chances of Hadjis Arif and Shaban Aga being acquitted are now of the slenderest. The execution of the two Bulgarians on the 26th ultimo was, I believe, entirely due to the representations of the Rhodope Commission, whose proceedings have since caused intense annoyance to the Russian authorities. Even at the time of the execution it was said that it was due to the promises made by Prince Dondoukoff to the Commission, and many voices were raised in disapproval of the Imperial Commissioner's allowing foreigners to interfere in the administration of Russian justice. It is easy to imagine the Prince's disgust at having been led to do an act which lays him open to this accusation by his own subordinates, and this would account for his refusal to comply with General Todleben's order for the release of the Beys, which he knew to have been also provoked by foreign interference; and for his determination (as reported to my French colleague) to have them executed.

Hadji Arif Agha may possibly have had a hand in the massacres of 1876; but Shaban Agha is most undoubtedly innocent. His commercial honesty was proverbial, and there are many Bulgarians who will regret his death, if it is decreed. His imprisonment and approaching trial are, I believe, wholly due to the machinations of the Bulgarian usurer mentioned in my letter of the 17th instant.

I have just learnt that the trial of these two notables is to take place on the 30th instant, instead of the 2nd September, and that a Russian advocate has been appointed to defend them before the Court-Martial.

I do not think that sufficient notice has been taken of the fact that there are many Russian officers who admit the atrocities committed by their troops and by the Bulgarians. A Russian military surgeon, whom I have known since January, and for whom I must confess to having formed a sort of friendship, asked me the other day whether I had read the article in the "Maritza" attacking me. I said that I had, and explained to him that the misstatement attributed to me was owing to an error of translation. He then abruptly asked me what kind of impression the facts I had reported would be calculated to make in England. I said they were likely to make a "very bad impression," whereupon he pursed up his lips and walked up and down the room two or three times. Suddenly he stopped short, in a state of great agitation, and said: "Eh bien! les Turcs n'ont-ils pas fait la même chose pendant des années et des siècles? Qu'ils sachent maintenant ce que c'est que d'avoir leurs femmes violées! Qu'ils le sachent! Qu'ils le sachent!" striking his fist violently on the table.

The Turkish refugees who are returning here are mostly reduced to great poverty; many have literally not the means of buying bread. The Russians lately announced that they were going to give the Turks an allowance at the rate of 2 piastres per day for each man, woman and child. Then the amount was stated to have been reduced to 1 piastre a-day. This allowance has been paid in some instances, but it was only continued for a few days, and then stopped.

In the villages the Turkish returned fugitives are far worse off. Telegrams are frequently received by the Russian Governor here from the other towns of the province, containing announcements such as this:—"Five hundred Turkish refugees have arrived; they want bread, and we have no means to feed them." There ought to be ample means to feed these unfortunate people, considering that the Russians have caused all their crops to be reaped by the Bulgars, who have to give half to the authorities. But all the available resources of the country are being swallowed up by the cost of administration, which the Russian Government in its poverty has to lay upon the occupied country, and by the incredible corruption of most of the Russian officials. I am, and have been for some time past, besieged with applications for relief from the Turks, who, having experienced English charity in Constantinople, imagine that it may still be extended to them here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. CALVERT.

P.S.—*20th August.* It is reported to me that an Aide-de-camp of Prince Dondoukoff yesterday told a Greek merchant, in whose house he is quartered, that Philippopolis will never be re-annexed to Turkey, but will be made an integral part of Bulgaria.
F. C.

No. 310.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 839.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 16, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER assures me that no arms or ammunition have been sent through Mitrovitza to the Bosnian insurgents. He says that last year about 1,100 cases of ammunition were forwarded to that place for the use of the Turkish troops, and that they have remained there. He was ready to give every facility to verify this fact to the Austrian Consul at Prisrend, but his Highness [declare?]s that Austrian Ambassador has expressed himself satisfied with the explanation.

He authorized me to-day to give an explicit denial to the statement that the Sultan had authorized the sending of arms to the insurgents, or had in any other way supported them.

No. 311.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 840.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 16, 1878.*

CARATHÉODORY PASHA has advised the Porte that it would be better not to accept Convention of Bosnia now proposed by Count Andrassy, but to take its stand upon the Agreement signed by the Austrian Plenipotentiaries at Berlin, and to make a Convention for the district of Novi-Bazar alone. Grand Vizier seems disposed to act upon this advice if the Sultan still refuses to accept Convention. I believe that Sir H. Elliot thinks this to be the best course.

No. 312.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 17, 1878.*

GENERAL PROTIC, in command at Nisch, telegraphs that 25,000 insurgents are concentrated between Glasinac and Foca, with numerous artillery. Reinforcements are arriving daily, and among them many regulars. They are preparing to march on Serajevo.

The whole of the Turkish troops are retreating, with their artillery, on Mitrovitza.

Under the circumstances, Servian Government have, in case of necessity, taken measures to call out and concentrate, within twenty-four hours, sufficient forces to protect their frontier.

Above communicated to Vienna.

No. 313.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 17, 1878.*

PRAY explain to Count Andrassy that we have urged on the Porte as earnestly as is in our power to meet his views as to Bosnia; and we have instructed Sir H. Layard to join Count Zichy in pressing for action against Mehemet Ali's murderers. But an identic note blaming the Porte for not fulfilling its engagements under the Treaty must proceed on facts tolerably clear; and we could not satisfy ourselves that the troubles either in Bosnia or Albania were due to the Porte's intention of evading its Treaty obligations. With respect to Greece, the Treaty has itself prescribed a different course of action.

No. 314.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 480.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 17, 1878.*

YOUR Excellency stated in your telegram of the 13th instant that Count Andrassy had asked you to express to me his earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government would consent to join in the identic note to the Porte which has been proposed by the German Government. It is my wish that you should explain to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have urged the Porte, with all the earnestness in their power, to meet his views as regards Bosnia; and that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to support fully the representations which the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador is about to make to the Porte with the view of insuring a full inquiry into the circumstances of the murder of Mehemet Ali, and pressing for action against the murderers. But if an identic note were to be presented by the Powers, blaming the Porte for not having fulfilled its obligations under the Treaty of Berlin, it would be necessary that it should be based on tolerably clear facts;

and Her Majesty's Government could not satisfy themselves that the state of affairs either in Bosnia or in Albania is due to the intention of the Porte to evade the obligations imposed upon it by Treaty; while as regards Greece, they cannot fail to recognize the fact that a different course of action to that suggested by the German Government has been prescribed by the Treaty itself. For these reasons they cannot assent to the view that the presentation of an identic note is required by existing circumstances.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 315.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 490.)
Foreign Office, September 17, 1878.

Sir,

I APPROVE the language used by your Excellency to Carathéodory Pasha, as reported in your despatch No. 639, Confidential, of the 7th instant, as to the danger with which the Porte would be threatened if the Austro-Hungarian troops should be driven to force their way into the *enclave* towards Novi-Bazar without a preliminary understanding with the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 316.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 491.)
Foreign Office, September 17, 1878.

Sir,

I APPROVE the language used by your Excellency to Baron Orczy, as reported in your despatch No. 642 of the 9th instant, respecting the German suggestion as to the presentation at Constantinople of an identic note censuring the Porte for its non-fulfilment of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 317.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1099.)
Foreign Office, September 17, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 1076 of the 29th ultimo, announcing the appointment of Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha as Commissioner for the pacification of Crete, and of Salim Effendi to accompany him.

Her Majesty's Government have learned with satisfaction the selection made by the Porte, and the conciliatory disposition evinced in the Grand Vizier's communications to you.

Your instructions to Mr. Sandwith, of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch, are entirely approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 318.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 110. Political.)
Trebizond, August 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in conformity with orders received from the Porte, all the soldiers belonging to the districts ceded to Russia are sent back to their native countries.

Among the few artillerymen at Trebizond there were nineteen belonging to this category, who were disbanded three days ago, and were told that, there being no money in the Government chest, the arrears of pay due to them, amounting to the aggregate sum of about 25,000 piastres, would be settled at a later period.

These men had been in the army for four years and a half, and had not received pay for the last twenty-eight months and a half.

They presented a petition to me, pointing out that, having been left without resources, it was impossible for them to join their families, and less to emigrate to Turkish territory, as it was their intention to do.

Having considered that, besides the iniquity of the proceeding used against them, these men might have been pushed by necessity to procure by illicit means the money of which they were in need, I was induced, with a view to prevent public tranquillity from being disturbed, to speak in a friendly way to Khosbrof Pasha, the Military Governor of Trebizond, who appeared himself indignant at not being furnished with the necessary funds by the civil authorities.

I am glad to have to report that, in consequence of my observations, the arrears of taxes due by the inhabitants of Trebizond are being collected, in order to pay these nineteen artillerymen.

The question concerning these individuals may be considered as settled, but I conceived it my duty to call the attention of Her Majesty's Ambassador to the fact that there are several hundreds of soldiers similarly situated at Batoum, to pay whom rather important sums of money are required, which, I am assured, and quite believe, do not exist in the Government chest in that locality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—*2nd September.* I have been deceived in my hopes respecting the settlement of the salaries due to the Trebizond artillerymen. They received only two months' pay and rations for the road, the authorities undertaking at the same time to reimburse their debts in the town, amounting together to about 2,000 piastres. The balance due to them is to be paid when they present themselves here again at some future period.

A. B.

No. 319.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 111. Political.)
Trebizond, August 30, 1878.

My Lord,

LAST week a company of soldiers arrived from Erzinghian with 180 horses to convey brick guns and other military stores.

Three days ago about one-third of these horses departed for Erzinghian, with twelve ambulance waggons which have been here since last year and have never been used.

It is to be hoped that they will be now employed for the transport of convalescents, who are now sent on foot, and die on the road, as your Lordship will perceive from the following extract of a letter dated Tigani, 27th instant:—

"It is a crying shame that they send away half-convalescent soldiers from Erzinghian, all the way on foot to Trebizond; I meet them, being nine days on the road, in a dying condition. I have grown callous to the sight of human sufferings, but the gratuitous, unnecessary cruelty to poor fellows who barely escaped the dangers of the campaign is heartrending in truth."

According to information brought by travellers from the interior of Anatolia, the whole of the 6th Army Corps, which had been stationed at Moosh and vicinity, has departed two or three weeks ago for its usual quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 320.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 112. Political.)

Trebizond, August 31, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 109 of the 28th instant, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter which I have received this morning from Don Gregorio, the Armenian Roman Catholic priest at Batoum.

It may appear incredible that he should have so easily succeeded in the mission confided to him; but the influence he enjoys with the Laz Beys, and which had induced me to apply to him, is such that no doubt is possible that much is due to his exertions, and that he deserves great praise for his having so well fulfilled the humanitarian mission confided to him. All reports from Batoum agree on this subject.

Of course the Russians had themselves employed all means of persuasion, and Don Gregorio having arrived with a message destroying all illusions as to British protection, at a time when the Governor-General of Trebizond was also despatched to communicate to the Laz that they had no support to expect from the Porte, nothing remained for them but to give up all idea of resistance.

Then arose the question of emigration. It would seem that the Russian Commanders, and, perhaps, Yussuf Pasha, but of this I have no reliable information, tried to impress on the populations that a hasty departure would have been detrimental to them, as they could not dispose advantageously of their property, and that nothing would prevent them emigrating at a later period if they were not satisfied with the new *régime*. It is even said that the Russians promised rations to those who had not the means of living.

According to Don Gregorio's letter the Laz seem to be satisfied to remain in their native country if their present condition is not altered, it must be presumed by the imposition of heavier taxes, and if they are not liable to military service, which it will be left to their option to enter as volunteers.

The four delegates sent to confer on this basis with the Russian Commanders had not yet returned, but it is probable that the terms of the Laz will be accepted, and that no emigration, on a large scale at all events, will take place.

The frigate "Muhbire Surur," which arrived this morning from Batoum, having in tow two country vessels loaded with munitions, had no emigrants on board. She landed 650 soldiers and nearly 100 horses. Thirty-five cannon, some of them of heavy calibre, and several thousand cases of munitions and other military stores are being disembarked.

It is rumoured that the surrender of Batoum will take place before the 12th instant, and that the Russians will evacuate Erzeroum at the same time.

Yussuf Pasha has not yet returned from Batoum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 320.

M. Poutchinian to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Batoum, le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Août*, 1878.

M. le Consul,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre estimée lettre du 23 courant.

Suivant votre ordre je me suis rendu à Chiako où s'étaient réunis tous les Beys; je leur ai remis la lettre d'Ali Bey, leur Représentant à Trébizonde, et je leur ai parlé dans le même sens de votre estimée; ils se sont décidés à désarmer et à se rendre immédiatement en ville pour voir le Vali de Trébizonde et de tenir Conseil pour trouver les moyens de calmer la colère Russe et Ottomane, sans porter préjudice à la situation et à l'état qu'ils avaient sous l'Empire Ottoman, de plus à ne s'inscrire soldats sous l'Empire Russe qu'en cas de guerre sous le titre de volontaires.

Ils ont envoyé deux représentants à Khotzoluan et deux autres à Tolgom pour faire accepter à la Russie les susdites conditions.

Si la Russie ne leur accorde pas leur demande, ils sont décidés à émigrer en Turquie, où ils comptent trouver un bon accueil.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) GREGOIRE POUTCHINIAN,

Curé de Batoum.

No. 321.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 113. Political.)

Trebizond, September 3, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transcribe, for your Lordship's information, a telegram which I have forwarded yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

"Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha informs me that, notwithstanding Russian promises, Lazes will all emigrate. He is on his way to Ordoo to select, with authority of Porte, lands for emigrants. Evacuation of Batoum pushed on actively; Russians were expected to enter Sikindjir yesterday, and Batoum Friday next."

The news of the Russians having taken possession of Sikindjir on the 1st instant is confirmed; they have also entered Artwin on the same date. Batoum is expected to be entirely evacuated on the 6th instant, when it will be handed over to the Russians.

Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha informed me that he had been authorized by the Porte to select at Ordoo, where he is proceedings, lands for the Turuksoo population.

If the available Government lands are not sufficient, private property is to be purchased in the same neighbourhood.

These emigrants expect to be assisted in these purchases by the numerous Georgians, their countrymen, who occupy high positions in Turkey.

In order to induce the Lazes not to emigrate, the Russians are said to have promised to exempt them from conscription, not to increase their present taxation, even to furnish them rations for a year or more. However, according to Ali Pasha, all the populations of the Lazistan will emigrate, but at present only about 500 or 600 families which are already at Batoum. The others will remain in their homes until the necessary arrangements are made to allow them to proceed direct to their new places of settlement.

The populations of Livanah will go to Malatia. No place has yet been fixed for those of Adjara, Madjkal, &c.

Commissioners are expected to come from Constantinople to superintend the emigration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 322.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 115. Political.)

Trebizond, September 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE telegraphed last evening to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople as follows:—

"2,000 Laz emigrants have arrived; 1,000 more are expected. No rations are issued to them, there being no money in Government chest. Great dissatisfaction exists amongst them."

Very little sympathy is shown to these Laz emigrants by the local authorities and by the population of Trebizond at large. No houses are provided for them, and it has been with the greatest difficulty, and after remonstrances on their part, that a ration of one quarter of an oke ($\frac{3}{4}$ lb.) of bread has been issued to grown-up men and women; the children have received nothing.

This state of things will continue until the return of Yussuf Pasha, who is expected to arrive here, together with Dervish Pasha, on Saturday next. But it would seem that the Porte has ordered rations to be issued only to those who are without any resources whatever.

The Lazes are very dissatisfied, and state openly that, had they foreseen a similar treatment, they would not have decided to emigrate.

When the Lazes who intend to do so, but are still in their country, hear of these complaints, they may refrain from following the example of their countrymen who have already departed for Turkey, and finding themselves in the desperate dilemma to live under a detested foe, or to starve among co-religionists, they may, after all, make

some mad attempt to oppose the Russian advance in their mountains, and cause useless bloodshed.

Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha, who had been promised to be reimbursed here part of the large sums of money which, he tells me, are due to him by the Porte, having received nothing, is unable to depart for Ordoo, a retard which can only be very prejudicial to the Laz emigrants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 323.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 5. Political.)
Aleppo, August 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the state of the Kossandagh in the Province of Adana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 323.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, August 30, 1878.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to transmit to your Excellency a telegram, of which the following is a copy:—

"The disturbances in the mountains are spreading and becoming serious; at Kossandagh the Government officials have been expelled, and a local magnate, Ahmet Pasha, is in possession of the Government; more troops are urgently required."

Kossanli Ahmet Pasha, the leader of the present revolt, was exiled some ten years ago by the Porte, but he lately succeeded in returning to his country, and gathering his old friends and adherents around him, took possession of a stronghold at Kossandagh named Beydunbey, and from thence issued his mandates to the Turkish officials. Zia Pasha, the Governor-General of Adana, has acted with promptitude; he demanded military aid from Damascus and Aleppo, but in both cases the demand could not be complied with; every available soldier and mounted policeman in the Vilayet of Aleppo, to the number of 1,400, had been sent to Zeitoon to put down the insurrection there, and Kiamil Pasha said he feared he might be ordered to send a portion of this force to Kossandagh to co-operate with the three battalions of regulars expected from Constantinople.

Zia Pasha, as soon as he became aware of the gravity of the movement, sent six of the notables of Adana with letters to the mountain chiefs, urging them to remain loyal to the Sultan's Government, but they were not well received; their mission was fruitless, and I believe it will take a force greatly superior to that now moving against the insurgents to subdue a population of some 60,000 in all, which can in an emergency furnish a force of 16,000 warriors.

Kossanli Ahmet Pasha is the lineal descendant of Kossan, one of the warriors of the Seljukian Alparslan, the son of Toghrul Bey, who conquered Cappadocia in the beginning of the twelfth century, and he established himself with a few followers in a portion of the great Taurus range of mountains.

Their kindred, who proceeded further westward, founded the dynasty of the Sultans of Koniah (Iconium), and were defeated by the Mongols of Gengis Khan, who overthrew that throne and left them to be subjugated by the Princes still reigning over the Ottoman Empire; but neither the Mongols nor the Ottomans could reduce the posterity and tribe of Kossan to submission, and they remained in independent possession of their inaccessible fastnesses.

They were soon known by the name of Kossanoglu, or the sons of Kassan, and their country as Kossandagh.

The country is amazingly strong, abounding in difficult passes and unsuspected caverns, places for defence and concealment, and it is said that some seventy years

ago in one defile Ali Bey, with only eighteen men, repulsed a force of 4,000 sent against him by the Ishapanoglos of Yuskat. More recently the Kossandagh was equally well defended by Mehemed Bey, who withstood the repeated attacks of Ibrahim Pasha when his stepfather, the Viceroy of Egypt, rebelled against the Sultan in 1839. Again, in 1862, 18,000 Ottoman troops under the command of Dervish Pasha, with Devdjet Pasha, the present Governor-General of Damascus, as Civil Commissioner, were sent by the Porte to subdue them, but after taking the town of Hagene and putting seven of the Christian notables to death on the pretext of complicity in the revolution, the expedition returned without having accomplished its object.

I have been informed by the Governor-General and also by the Vice-Consul at Mersyne that Kossanli Ahmet Pasha is well known to be in the pay of Russia, and that the present movement is supported by Russian money.

A report is current here, and I give it to your Excellency for what it may be worth, that the Christian population of the Giaour Dagh, that range of mountains extending from Alexandretta to Marash, are likewise ripe for revolt; that foreign agents have lately been in the mountains inciting the people to throw off the Turkish yoke, and propagating the idea of the formation of an Armenian Kingdom.

Whatever truth there may be in this report it is obviously the interest of the Government to use every effort to nip this revolt in the bud, and prevent the Kossanoglu uniting themselves with the insurgents of Zeitoon on the east and those of the Giaour Dagh on the west. A remarkable feature of the revolt at Kossandagh is that the insurgents are Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 324.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 67. Political.)
Scutari, September 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE waited for a week to pass over my return to my post before venturing to furnish a report to your Lordship on the state of the country and the position of affairs here.

In Scutari itself and the immediate neighbourhood perfect quiet appears to exist, but at the same time, a feeling of intense anxiety, and a sense of future uncertainty prevails.

The League of National Safety, which, if not actually called into existence by the Turkish authorities, certainly rapidly grew in strength under their approving looks, has completely unhinged the local administration, and, if energetic measures are not at once adopted, anarchy will soon possess North Albania.

The stout resistance offered to the advance of the Austrians in Bosnia and the Herzegovina is making the people here forget the reverses sustained during the recent war, and hopes, stimulated by lavish promises of support in arms and men, are reviving of rendering nugatory the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have lost no opportunity of explaining to the authorities, and to the many influential natives who have called to welcome my return, the danger into which they are running by their vain boastings and preparations for resisting the decisions of the Congress. Hussein Pasha has been reminded that the Austrians have marched into Bosnia because the Sultan's Government asserted its inability to restore order there; and I have pointed out to the Albanians how easily an Austrian army corps could advance to Scutari in a couple of days from Spizza.

For the moment the proceedings of the Chiefs of the League of National Safety assembled at Prisrend and of Mehemed Ali Pasha—who, it is asserted, is detained there by them—are being anxiously watched, and if the Pasha shows the slightest sign of weakness or hesitation, the factics of the turbulent in North Albania will get the upper hand, and the pillage of rich and defenceless districts will commence, for the only meaning attached by these people to "national safety" is licence.

I have no belief in Albanians in any considerable numbers going to help the Bosniacs. Probably a few bands will undertake looting expeditions against friends and foes alike.

On the other hand, I fully share the general conviction that, if it is attempted to carry out the surrender of Podgoritza, Spuz, and Goussinié to the Montenegrins,

without every possible precaution being observed, most serious opposition will be encountered, and the recent experiences of the Austrians ought to secure especial attention for this opinion.

It will not be sufficient for a mere Commission to be appointed to indicate the lines to be followed by the new frontiers. The Turkish force of regular troops here now is quite inadequate to secure the transfer of forts, towns, and territory to the Montenegrins. Probably the Albanian and Roumelian soldiers would join the inhabitants in resisting the surrender; the Arabs would remain passive spectators. The Pashas now here are all pledged to resist at all costs every cession of territory, and they would most likely resign their commands rather than risk assassination.

A new Commander-in-chief, accompanied by numerous battalions, and bearing the Sultan's mandate couched in the clearest terms, could only, under present circumstances, enforce, without a lamentable effusion of blood, the rectifications of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier.

I understand that my French colleague, who has been promoted to the rank of Consul-General both for Scutari and Montenegro, and Captain Zanerwald, have already been appointed respectively French and Austrian Commissioners for the demarcation of the frontiers in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 325.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 92. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September 8, 1878.*

I HAVE received during the last month several petitions from the Christian inhabitants of different parts of Crete, praying that the island be placed under British protection. I have not thought it necessary to forward these petitions to your Lordship, or even to report the receipt of each one, but I have not failed to intimate to the petitioners that their demand is inadmissible. The last one received was signed by the leading Christian inhabitants of the district of Candia, in which they declare that they have no confidence in the Turkish Government, and that it is their unanimous wish to live under English rule. I have instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherinos, through whom the petition was forwarded, to acquaint them that, while Her Majesty's Government cannot accede to their request, it is using its influence with the Porte to grant the Christian inhabitants such liberal concessions as shall insure them the enjoyment of complete justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 326.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 93. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of three despatches which I have addressed to his Excellency the Ambassador at the Porte—(1) acknowledging the receipt of his Excellency's letter of instructions authorizing me to mediate between the Imperial Commissioner and the Cretan insurgents; (2) describing the steps taken to arrange a meeting between both parties; and (3) seeking elucidation on certain questions on which differences of opinion are likely to occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 326.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September 5, 1878.*

I HAD the honour on the 3rd instant to receive your Excellency's despatch, dated the 27th ultimo, informing me of the appointment of Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha as Commissioner in Crete for bringing to a settlement, in conjunction with Costaki Pasha, the differences which have arisen between the Turkish authorities of the island and the Christian population. Your Excellency also informs me that the Grand Vizier has requested you to instruct me to use my good offices to bring about an understanding between the Imperial Commissioner and the Cretan leaders; and you add that Her Majesty's Government has authorized me to offer my mediation with this object.

I will endeavour to fulfil to the best of my ability the mission which Her Majesty's Government has been pleased to confide to me, not without a deep sense both of the honour conferred on me and of the difficulties which must inevitably occur in bringing about an arrangement satisfactory to all parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 326.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September 8, 1878.*

JUST after posting my despatch on the morning of the 3rd instant, Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha sent to say that he was sufficiently well to be able to converse with me. His Excellency, who was still suffering from the effects of his illness, told me that he was extremely anxious to come to an understanding with the Cretan insurgents without a moment's delay, and did me the honour to consult me as to the best means of opening negotiations with them. I stated that the General Assembly which had been elected by the people some nine months previously, with the consent of the local authorities, was still in existence, and that in my opinion the natural course to take was for the Vali to announce to them that the Porte had sent his Excellency to Crete on a mission of pacification, and to invite them to choose, from the 240 members forming that body, ten persons, to whom they should delegate authority for coming to an understanding with the Commissioner. As his Excellency seemed to fear that the invitation might be rejected, an apprehension which, from my knowledge of the temper of the Christain Chiefs, I could not but share, he asked me if I could not use my influence to induce them to accept it. Having acceded to this request without hesitation, it was agreed that the Imperial Commissioner should in the first place issue a Proclamation to the inhabitants generally, announcing the purpose of his mission, and that Costaki Pasha should at the same time address a letter to the General Assembly inviting them to delegate a few members to come into town to discuss the changes which it was desirable to introduce into the Organic Law. This letter I forwarded to the General Assembly on the 4th instant, informing them that Her Majesty's Government had authorized me to act as mediator between them and the Imperial Commissioner, and urging them to comply with the Governor-General's invitation without loss of time. Copies and translations of these documents I have herewith the honour to annex.

To my letter they replied at once, expressing much gratitude to Her Majesty's Government for undertaking to mediate between them and the Porte, and expressing their readiness to send a limited number of Delegates to come to an understanding with the Imperial Commissioner. At the same time they pointed out the disadvantages that would result should the meeting take place in town, on account of the difficulty of communicating between the Delegates and the main body of the General Assembly, for it appears that nothing will induce the Assembly to delegate full powers to a few. I did not lose a moment in conveying to the Commissioner their wish, which his Excellency was quite willing to meet by designating the neighbouring village of Chalepa, where he intends to reside, as a place of meeting. At the same time permission will be given to the General Assembly to approach nearer the town in order to facilitate communication with the Delegates. Moukhtar Pasha begged me to

induce the Assembly to send as few as possible to treat with him, and in addition to grant them full powers. I did not fail to convey to them his Excellency's wish, as compliance therewith would certainly expedite matters, but I did not press the point, because I know how strong their objections are to trusting unlimited powers to a few, and in my relations with both parties, it is plainly my duty not to appear to lean to one side more than to the other. My letter to the Assembly was dispatched yesterday, and it is hoped that the first meeting will take place between the Delegates and the Sultan's Commissioner to-morrow.

September 9.—Last night I received a letter from the General Assembly in answer to mine, in which they inform me that they have chosen nine of their number to represent the rest, and that they will attend at the place of meeting to-day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 326.

Proclamation.

(Traduction.)

Crétois,

AFFLIGÉE de voir se prolonger dans votre pays le désordre qui a été depuis quelque temps la cause de tant de souffrances aux habitants Chrétiens et Musulmans dans plusieurs parties de l'île, et désirant ardemment de mettre un terme à ce déplorable état de choses, Sa Majesté Impériale notre auguste Souverain a daigné m'envoyer dans votre île afin de m'enquérir des vœux du peuple Crétois et d'y porter remède par les mesures les plus efficaces.

Et comme pour le succès de cette tâche il eut fallu établir une entente avec les Représentants du peuple Crétois, l'Assemblée Générale à été invitée à choisir et envoyer au chef-lieu de ce Gouvernement Général quelques-uns de leurs nombres, dont l'entente avec moi pourrait amener l'heureux résultat qu'on en attend.

Crétois,

En portant à votre connaissance l'heureuse nouvelle de la bienveillance et de la haute sollicitude de Sa Majesté à l'égard de votre pays, je suis convaincu que dans votre vif désir de voir bientôt la fin de vos souffrances vous apprendrez avec joie le but de ma mission, et que vous en attendrez avec confiance le terme des désordres qui désolent le pays, le retour de la tranquillité, de la légalité et de l'ordre, et le commencement d'une ère nouvelle de progrès et de bien-être.

En m'adressant à vous avec cet espoir certain, je crois de mon devoir de faire un appel au patriotisme et à l'intelligence qui caractérisent les habitants de cette île, et de vous exhorter tous d'une manière paternelle de vivre en paix et en harmonie fraternelle et de faciliter ainsi l'œuvre que nous poursuivons dans l'intérêt de notre patrie.

La prolongation des derniers désordres a accumulé assez de maux sur votre pays que vous n'éprouviez pas un besoin urgent de faire cesser cette triste situation.

Puissent nos efforts communs amener cette heureux résultat et faire sortir le pays de cette dernière épreuve avec l'espoir réel d'un meilleur avenir.

Le Commissaire Impérial,

(Signé) GHAZI AHMED MOUKHTAR.

La Canée, le $\frac{23\ \text{Août}}{4\ \text{Septembre}}$ 1878.

Inclosure 4 in No. 326.

Adossidis Pasha to the Christian Representatives of the Cretan People.

(Traduction.)

IL s'est écoulé bien du temps depuis que la tranquillité de votre île a été de nouveau troublée, et que les habitants, Musulmans et Chrétiens, de plusieurs localités ont malheureusement enduré, et continuent encore à endurer, de cruelles épreuves, la prolongation desquelles menace d'avoir des suites funestes pour tout le pays.

Dans son vif désir de faire cesser ce déplorable état de choses et de rétablir l'ordre sur des bases solides, Sa Majesté Impériale, notre auguste Souverain, a daigné envoyer ici son Excellence le Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, chargé d'entendre les vœux du

peuple Crétois et de rechercher les moyens propres à assurer le repos du pays, la légalité, le bien-être, et le progrès qui en sont le résultat.

Je m'estime, donc, heureux d'annoncer ce qui précède, à vous, Messieurs, qui avez été depuis longtemps appelés à représenter le peuple Chrétien de la Crète, et j'aime à espérer que dans votre désir ardent de voir le terme des maux de votre beau pays, le réglement de vos affaires, et le rétablissement de l'ordre public avec tous les bienfaits qui en découlent, vous apprendrez avec un véritable plaisir le but de la mission du Délégué Impérial, et que vous vous empresserez de venir à sa rencontre, car son Excellence est prête à entrer avec vous en relations et à procéder à l'accomplissement de sa haute mission.

Vous êtes, par conséquent, invités, Messieurs, à envoyer immédiatement au chef-lieu du Gouvernement Général ceux des Députés que vous aurez choisis parmi vous, afin que l'entente qui sera établie entr'eux et le Commissaire Impérial puisse amener le résultat désiré.

Le Gouverneur-Général de la Crète,

(Signé) C. ADOSSIDIS.

La Canée, le $\frac{23\ \text{Août}}{4\ \text{Septembre}}$ 1878.

Inclosure 5 in No. 326.

Consul Sandwith to the Cretan General Assembly.

(Translation.)

INCLOSED is a letter from his Excellency the Governor-General, inviting the General Assembly of the Christians to choose ten of their number to present themselves in town, in order to come to an arrangement with the Imperial Commissioner, Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, who has been entrusted by his Government with the mission to bring about the pacification of this island. The Government of Her Majesty the Queen of England has authorized me to offer my mediation in order to facilitate an arrangement which will lead to the future good government and prosperity of Crete, and the Sublime Porte has accepted this mediation. I therefore, gentlemen, request you to accept without delay the invitation conveyed to you in the accompanying letter, as it is for the general interest that peace should be restored to the island as soon as possible.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Canea, $\frac{\text{August}\ 31}{\text{September}\ 12}$ 1878.

Inclosure 6 in No. 326.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September* 8, 1878.

AMONG the questions which will be debated between the Imperial Commissioner and the Delegates of the Cretan General Assembly, there is none likely to be more keenly contested than the claim of the Christians to have a preponderating influence in the administrative, representative, and judicial bodies. On this point it is important that I should know how far I may countenance the Christians in their pretensions, as I foresee that whenever differences of opinion arise between them and the Imperial Commissioner and his coadjutors on this and other points, I shall be solicited by the latter to moderate their demands, while the former will look to me to support them.

I therefore take the liberty to submit to your Excellency, with all diffidence, what concessions it appears to me the Porte might fairly make in these matters.

In the first place, the pretension that the Christians should choose three of the four Judges, who, with the President, constitute the Courts of Law, seems to me to be subversive of every principle of justice, and to be based on the assumption that the majority of Christian Judges in a Tribunal must necessarily insure a judgment in their favour. The ends of justice will assuredly never be attained by such clumsy and cynical devices, but rather by a careful selection of the persons charged to administer it. I shall, therefore, think it my duty to dissuade them from pressing this claim, which they have already advanced in the list of changes they desire to be introduced in the Organic Law.

With regard to their claim to be represented in the General Assembly in proportion to their numbers, we are here on quite different ground, and in my humble opinion it is a claim not to be disregarded. The General Assembly meets annually in

Canea, under the Presidency of the Governor-General, and it was devised as a method by which the inhabitants could make their grievances heard, with a view to their being redressed, without having recourse to violence. It is a purely representative Assembly, and as such it ought faithfully to reflect the views and wishes of both sections of the population. As by the lowest computation the Christians number two-thirds of the population, the right to elect two-thirds of the members might in fairness be conceded to them. The Assembly has no legislative functions, and no measure recommended by it can become law unless sanctioned by the Porte, so that there is every safeguard that its votes shall not injuriously affect the interests of the Mussulmans.

Turning now to the Administrative Councils, I am not so clear as to whether the right advanced by the Christians of having a preponderating voice in the deliberations of these Boards ought to be conceded to them or not. I cannot, however, but feel that their objection to the presence therein of persons who claim seats in virtue of their office is well founded, as not only are the majority of such persons Mussulmans, but they are possessed of far more influence than the analogous Christian members; and the voices of the Christian members have hitherto never had a fair chance of making themselves effectually heard. I cannot but think, therefore, that all official members ought to be excluded, the Vali alone presiding over a purely elective Assembly. The Christians contend that, as important questions affecting the interests of the island are here discussed and decided, they, as forming the majority of the population, are more deeply interested in their settlement than their Mussulman fellow-countrymen. The argument is plausible, and if they had been more used to the possession of power there would be less objection to their being entrusted with it.

Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, with whom I conversed cursorily on this question, seemed to think that the Defterdar, who is always a Mussulman, ought to retain his seat in the Administrative Council, on the ground that where financial questions were discussed, nobody was so fit to give an opinion on them.

To this argument I ventured to demur, suggesting that when questions affecting his department were under consideration, and information was desired, he might be sent for and requested to furnish it. It appears to me that a functionary who is always a stranger to the place has no fair right to a consultative voice in local affairs, simply because he has a special knowledge of finance.

The other questions of most import likely to give rise to differences of opinion, such as the system of voting, which should be conducted without distinction of creed, and the more important demand that the final arrangement arrived at shall be guaranteed by the Great Powers or by England, were included in my despatch of the 1st ultimo; and your Excellency informs me, in your letter of instructions, that the conditions there mentioned were, in the Grand Vizier's opinion, acceptable in principle, and form the bases of an understanding between the Porte and the National Assembly. You further add that you understand that Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha will be instructed to agree with the National Assembly to a modification of the Organic Law in conformity with them.

I am thus provided with a rule by which to regulate my conduct in the delicate task of endeavouring "to bring about an understanding between the Imperial Commissioner and the Cretan leaders," and should the latter confine their demands within the limits already indicated to your Excellency in my despatch above mentioned, I presume there will be no call for me to discountenance them. It is on their claim to vote according to their numbers, which I have entered upon at some length in the beginning of this despatch, that I feel anxious for your Excellency's guidance and opinion. Should your Excellency think that I have there taken an exaggerated view of the claims of the Christians in this particular respect, I would beg the favour of a telegram, pointing out to what extent they are inadmissible.

I need not say that I shall strive to interfere as little as possible in the questions now pressing for solution; but as it is inevitable that I shall be frequently appealed to by both parties, and especially by the Imperial Commissioner or his coadjutors to moderate the claims of the Christians, I am naturally anxious to have clear views as to how far those claims may be considered legitimate. In the interest of both religious communities, whose future prosperity depends on the present settlement being durable, I cannot recommend the Christians to abate their claims, if in my opinion they are just and reasonable, and your Excellency concurs in that opinion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 327.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, September 18.)

[B.B.]

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{28 \text{ Août}}{7 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1878.

A LA suite de la décision du Congrès de Berlin, consignée dans le 13ième Protocole de ses séances et mentionnée dans l'Article XXIV du Traité, le Gouvernement Royal adressa à la Sublime Porte, à la date du $\frac{5}{17}$ Juillet dernier, une note par laquelle il la priait de nommer des Commissaires afin que, de concert avec ceux qui seraient délégués par le Gouvernement Royal, il fut procédé à l'exécution précitée du Congrès de Berlin.

Cette démarche était dictée par la pensée que la décision du Congrès en principe ne pouvait être contestée par la Sublime Porte.

En effet, en signant le Traité de Berlin, la Porte a formellement reconnu le principe de la cession territoriale enregistré dans l'Article XXIV du susdit Traité, et, par le fait de sa signature, elle a mis à néant toutes les réserves que les Plénipotentiaires avaient formulées au sein du Congrès relativement au 13ième Protocole.

Mais un mois et demi s'est écoulé depuis la remise de la note précitée, et pendant tout ce laps de temps, aucune réponse n'a été donnée par la Sublime Porte à la communication du Gouvernement Royal.

Comme le Gouvernement Royal ne pouvait pas interpréter ce silence prolongé de la Sublime Porte dans le sens d'un refus, il se trouvait dans la nécessité de voir le temps s'écouler sans qu'une affaire de si haute importance eût fait un pas en avant depuis la clôture des travaux du Congrès de Berlin.

Cet état de choses faisait naître pour le Gouvernement Royal une responsabilité dont il ne lui était pas permis de méconnaître la gravité et les conséquences. De plus, le Gouvernement Royal tenait à ce que l'interprétation qu'il donnait au silence de la Porte ne fût pas basée d'arbitraire.

Par toutes ces raisons et pour fournir au Gouvernement du Sultan l'occasion de manifester ses vues touchant l'exécution des décisions du Congrès, le Gouvernement Royal vient de communiquer au Grand Vizir, Lundi dernier, $\frac{27 \text{ Août}}{9 \text{ Septembre}}$, un télégramme par l'intermédiaire du Ministre du Roi à Constantinople.

Par ce télégramme M. Coundourioti était chargé de demander au Grand Vizir qu'une réponse catégorique fût donnée à la note du $\frac{5}{17}$ Juillet dernier jusqu'à Vendredi $\frac{29 \text{ Août}}{10 \text{ Septembre}}$.

M. Coundourioti devait en même temps déclarer à Safvet Pacha que le Gouvernement Royal ne pouvant que considérer comme un refus le silence de la Sublime Porte, se trouvera dans la nécessité d'avoir recours aux Grandes Puissances auxquelles l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin a attribué le droit de médiation, afin de les prier d'exercer ce droit, dans le cas où la Sublime Porte, après notre dernière démarche, n'aurait pas donné une réponse catégorique et affirmative à la note précitée.

Aux représentations de M. Coundourioti le Grand Vizir a répondu qu'il consultera avec ses collègues et prendra les ordres du Sultan pour donner la réponse demandée.

En effet, le Grand Vizir a dit hier à M. Coundourioti qu'il a invité le Ministre de Turquie à Athènes de nous faire connaître la réponse de la Sublime Porte; et que, dans la lettre écrite à cet effet à Photiades Bey, le Gouvernement Ottoman déclarait ne pas pouvoir répondre à l'invitation du Gouvernement Hellénique avant d'avoir obtenu des Puissances une réponse au Mémoire qu'elle venait de leur adresser.

Cette réponse est purement évasive. Elle tend à repousser toute entente entre les deux Gouvernements pour l'exécution de la décision du Congrès, et à faire entrer le Gouvernement Hellénique dans un cercle vicieux en lui créant des difficultés inextricables.

En présence de cette attitude de la Sublime Porte, qui cherche à éluder à l'exécution des décisions du Congrès, le Gouvernement Royal pense que le moment est venu de s'adresser aux Puissances et de les prier d'exercer le droit de médiation que l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin leur a conféré.

Les tentatives faites jusqu'à présent pour amener une entente avec la Sublime Porte nous ont convaincus que, sans la médiation des Grandes Puissances, il ne serait nullement possible d'obtenir même un commencement d'exécution des décisions du Congrès.

Le Gouvernement Royal n'ayant reçu aucune communication officielle du contenu du Mémoire adressé aux Puissances par la Sublime Porte, ne pourrait pas savoir si

le Gouvernement Ottoman a le droit de s'attendre à une réponse de la part des Puissances.

Il n'est pas non plus permis au Gouvernement Royal de rester dans l'inaction, en attendant que se produise le fait auquel Safvet Pasha entend subordonner la réponse que nous lui avons demandée.

Mais, attendu que dans le cas même où la Porte aurait droit à une réponse de la part des Puissances, notre demande de médiation ne saurait y apporter aucune entrave, le Gouvernement Royal n'hésite pas d'adresser aux Grandes Puissances la présente demande de médiation.

Vous êtes donc invité de demander une entrevue au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et prier le Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité d'exercer le droit de médiation de concert avec les Puissances mentionnées dans l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin.

Vous voudrez bien donner lecture et laisser copie de la présente à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) TH. F. DELYANNI.

No. 328.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, September 18.)

(Télégraphique.) [B.B.] *Constantinople, le 16 Septembre*, 1878.

VOUS connaissez les douloureux événements dont la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine et quelques localités voisines de la Servie et du Monténégro ont été récemment le théâtre, et qui entravent ou retardent l'exécution de certaines dispositions du Traité de Berlin. Des populations qui n'ont aucune affinité et pour la plupart aucun lien d'origine et de religion avec les Etats auxquels elles doivent être réunies, se sont insurgées contre l'idée de cette annexion et ont pris la résolution extrême de s'y opposer par la force. Sous l'empire d'un entraînement irrésistible elles ont méconnu leurs autorités légitimes dont les Représentants ont été leurs premières victimes. En Bosnie le temps a manqué au Gouvernement Impérial pour ramener ces populations au sentiment de la nécessité, et tous ses efforts ont été impuissants à empêcher des conflits sanglants entre elles et les troupes Austro-Hongroises appelées à occuper le pays; cependant la Sublime Porte pourrait facilement démontrer, si quelque doute pouvait s'élever à cet égard, qu'elle a fait tout ce que les circonstances lui permettaient de faire pour prévenir cette explosion, et qu'elle a du moins réussi à empêcher le mouvement de se propager dans un plus grand nombre de districts.

Dans le pays situé au nord de l'Albanie, dont une partie doit être réunie soit à la Servie soit au Monténégro, une effervescence non moins grande et non moins spontanée s'est emparée des habitants qui se sont concentrés à l'effet de résister aux dites mesures qui doivent être prises pour les séparer de leurs compatriotes et de leurs coreligionnaires destinés à devenir Serbes ou Monténégrins. Quelques-uns d'entre eux, égarés par la passion, viennent de se rendre coupables d'un épouvantable forfait en mettant à mort le Mutchir Mehemed Ali Pacha, envoyé par la Sublime Porte pour calmer les esprits et les disposer à se soumettre aux décisions du Traité de Berlin. Les coupables recevront le châtiment qu'ils ont mérité, et la Sublime Porte fera respecter son autorité dans cette contrée de façon à pouvoir assurer dans le plus bref délai possible l'échange des territoires. En remettant sous vos yeux ces tristes épisodes, je tiens avant tout à constater que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a failli à aucun de ses devoirs internationaux, et qu'il s'est constamment appliqué à amener l'exécution des dispositions du Traité de Berlin, et que si l'événement n'a pas répondu à son attente il ne saurait en être rendu responsable à aucun titre.

Le temps qui seul aurait pu nous permettre de conjurer ces dangers et d'éviter ces regrettables conflits, nous a fait défaut, et il serait profondément injuste de nous faire un reproche des difficultés qui ont surgi et qui étaient inhérents à l'objet même qu'il s'agissait de réaliser. Nous avons conscience de notre loyauté; nous en donnerions au besoin les preuves les plus convaincantes, et nous espérons que les Puissances ajouteront foi à nos déclarations aussi bien qu'au témoignage des faits.

Je vous prie de donner lecture de cette dépêche à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 329.

Memorandum communicated by M. Bartholomei.

UN télégramme du Sénateur de Giers de Livadia fait part à l'Ambassade de Russie à Londres, que le retard apporté par la Porte à l'évacuation de Podgoritza menace d'aggraver considérablement la situation en Albanie. La remise de cette place est une opération purement militaire sans aucun rapport avec les considérations d'un autre ordre qui ressortiraient de la fermentation des esprits dans ces localités. L'élément Musulman y est insignifiant; tout délai ne servirait donc qu'à alimenter l'état d'anarchie. Nous avons lieu de croire qu'il serait question d'ameuter près de Podgoritza des Albanais montagnards qui, à un moment donné, s'empareraient de ses fortifications, et ce serait dans ce but que des approvisionnements sont dirigés de ce côté. Une prolongation de cet état de choses amènerait infailliblement aux plus graves complications et obligerait le Monténégro de rester l'arme au bras. Ayant consenti à l'ajournement de la réunion d'une Commission Européenne de Délimitation, par laquelle nous espérions mettre fin à cette déplorable situation, nous nous croyons en droit de compter sur l'intervention des Grandes Puissances auprès de la Porte pour la remise immédiate de Podgoritza au Monténégro, conformément aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin.

No. 330.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 842.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 17, 1878.*

ASSIM PASHA has been appointed Turkish Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia.

No. 331.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *September 17, 1878.*

ASSIM PASHA, once President of the Council, has been appointed Turkish Commissioner.

No. 332.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 17, 1878.*

BOUNDARY Commissioners are now assembled here, but at a loss to know what to do in the absence of their British colleague. There is also some doubt whether it is intended they should delimitate all or part of the new Servian frontier.

On account of approach of bad season, and the insecure condition of the frontier, the Commission will in all probability be exposed to great difficulty and danger.

Servia, on the other hand, has cancelled the appointment of a Servian Delegate made at the request of Mehemed Pasha, and awaits further action of the Great Powers.

I have been applied to for information as to intentions of Her Majesty's Government, and consequently request your Lordship's instructions.

No. 333.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 843.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 18, 1878.

I AM informed that General Todleben will withdraw the troops now at San Stefano within a few days, and that the Russians will probably concentrate at Chorlu, where they will remain for some time to come. Shall I request Admiral to withdraw fleet to Artaki as soon as Russians retire from San Stefano?

No. 334.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1878.

WE are informed confidentially from Vienna that an army of 200,000 Russians is to be assembled to the west of Adrianople, in order to provide security against a possible Albanian rising. This is another serious danger which will be much aggravated if Sultan encourages Albanian and Bosnian insurgents. Count Zichy will urge measures against Kiamli of Prisrend, Valinazif of Pristina, and others concerned in the recent murder. Give to him all the support you can, for there is reason to apprehend massacre of Christians in Albania.

No. 335.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 835 of the 14th instant, you may authorize Mr. Calvert to spend the amount suggested with a view to obtain information.

No. 336.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1878.

FRANCE, Austria, and Italy are willing Commission should meet at Philippopolis.

Are all Commissioners at Constantinople?

No. 337.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1117. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1878.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has confidentially communicated to me telegraphic intelligence which he has received from his Government, to the effect that the Russian Government intend to assemble a force of 200,000 men to the west of Adrianople, in order to provide security against a possible Albanian rising. I have informed your Excellency by telegraph of this report, as indicating another serious danger, which will be much aggravated if any encouragement is given by the Sultan to the Albanian and Bosnian insurgents.

Count Deym has further informed me that Count Zichy will urge that the Porte should take measures to punish the Mutessarif Kiamil Bey of Prisrend, Valinazif Pasha of Pristina, and others, who were concerned in the recent murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha.

I have requested your Excellency to give to Count Zichy's representations on this point all the support in your power, as there seems reason to apprehend that a massacre of the Christian population in Albania may ensue unless steps are taken to check the agitation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 338.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1878.

I HAVE this day telegraphed to you stating that the French, Austrian, and Italian Governments have expressed themselves as willing that the Commission of which you are a member should hold its sittings at Philippopolis.

I have requested you to inform me whether all the members of the Commission have now arrived at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 338*.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Tehran, August* 8, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 109 of the 30th July, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Captain Napier has sent me a Persian letter, which I have the honour to transmit herewith, in translation, for your Lordship's information. It is the copy of a letter addressed by the Governor of Boojnoord to M. Bakouline, the Russian Consul at Asterabad, now in Meshed, and it shows that the Persian authorities in Khorassan had sent instructions to the districts on the Akhal frontier to assist the Russians as far as they could, by furnishing them with supplies and means of transport.

These orders could not, in my opinion, have been issued by the Prince Governor without his having previously learned that they were in accordance with the views of his Government. The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs denies all knowledge of any communication having been sent from here on the subject of Khorassan, and it appears to me to be not unlikely that the orders which have been given may have been transmitted by the Shah, probably from Russia, to the Prince Governor, either through the Russian Government and M. Bakouline, or through the Persian Minister of the Interior at Tehran, in whom His Majesty has much confidence. The Shah is expected to arrive here to-day, and I shall seek an early opportunity of communicating with the Sepah Salar on this subject.

In a subsequent telegram communicated by me to your Lordship on the 3rd instant, Captain Napier reported having received information that the Governor of Dereghez had been ordered not only to assist the Russians by procuring supplies for them, but to co-operate with them by opposing any attempt which might be made by the Akhal tribes to leave the Atek. If the Persian Government were to join openly and entirely in the present expedition against Akhal, considerable military preparations would have to be made in Khorassan before doing so; and it appears to me that for the present it is not intended to give further assistance to the movement than by enabling the Russian force to draw supplies from the Persian districts near the frontier, and by Persia giving her assent to the occupation of the Akhal country by Russia.

Unless the invading force should meet with some very unexpected reverse, it is not probable that any other assistance from this country will be needed, as the moment for attack would seem to have been well chosen by the Russians, the tribes being at present in difficulty and distress, owing to the severity prevailing in their districts, and the season not admitting of their moving off with their encampments to seek safety in the desert.

Those who do not yield at once will probably not attempt to pass into Persian territory, but will endeavour to withdraw to Merve to join their brethren there; and unless the Chief of Dereghez, who has only a limited number of irregular horse at his disposal, were supported by a large Persian force, which is not at present available in Khorassan, he would be unable to oppose either the retreat of the Akhals towards Merve, or the advance thence to their assistance of the reinforcements promised them by the Merve portion of their tribe.

This assistance will bring the Russians into direct collision with the latter, and afford Russia at once a plausible pretext, of which experience has taught us that she will not hesitate to take advantage, for a speedy advance upon Merve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD J. THOMSON.

Inclosure in No. 338*.

The Governor of Boojnoord to the Russian Consul at Asterabad.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *July* 18, 1878.

I RECEIVED your letter on the 15th instant, on the frontiers of Boojnoord, informing me of the sending of Russian troops in the direction of the Akhal country, and have been honoured with the communication from His Royal Highness the Prince Governor of Khorassan, which was therein inclosed.

Respecting your request to me, should the Russian troops arrive near the frontiers of Boojnoord, not to hinder their getting anything they might require in the way of provisions and other necessaries, such as camels and mules, I beg to inform you that the country entrusted to me is on the frontiers and out of the way. The system of transport (by mule or camel) is unknown, and it is not at all the custom for people to keep these animals, as they have no intercourse with or merchandize to take to other places. To meet their own wants they go from fort to fort on donkeys or ponies. It is, therefore, quite impossible for us to find camels and mules. As regards provisions, should the troops come anywhere within the reach of cultivated parts of my jurisdiction, whatever may be necessary will be prepared, so far as the resources of the country permit. I will assist General Lamakin, the Russian Commander, to the best of my ability, because of the friendship and amity which exists between the two great Powers (of Persia and Russia).

I beg to inclose herewith my letter to the Prince Governor. It is couched in the same strain.

No. 339.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 114. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September* 4, 1878.

IN answer to your Lordship's telegram of the 2nd instant, I have had the honour to wire as follows:—

"Received last night your Lordship's telegram of the 2nd, and communicated its contents to Tsurooksooli Ali Pasha, who is here, and to the other Laz Beys, through letter to Armenian priest at Batoum, in whom they have confidence. Lazes have given up all intention to oppose Russian occupation, and have begun to emigrate. Two thousand emigrants have already arrived here. Evacuation of Batoum carried on actively."

I beg to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of the letter which I have addressed to Don Gregorio, the Armenian Roman Catholic priest, through whom I had already made a communication to the Laz Beys, as ordered by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and as reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 106 of the 23rd ultimo.

Tsurooksooli Ali Pasha has, at my request, written himself to his countrymen to

apprize them of the view of Her Majesty's Government respecting the Russian occupation of Batoum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 339.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Rev. G. Poutchinian.

M. le Curé, *Trébizonde, le 3 Septembre*, 1878.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir votre lettre du 30 Août et je vous remercie pour l'empressement que vous avez mis à décourager les Lazes à s'opposer à l'occupation Russe, comme je vous avais prié de le faire à la suite d'ordres reçus de l'Ambassade à Constantinople.

Je n'ai pas manqué de porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique que vos efforts ont été couronnés de succès, et je vous serai bien reconnaissant d'informer de nouveau les Beys Laz que je viens de recevoir une dépêche du Marquis de Salisbury confirmant la communication de Sir Austen H. Layard.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères me télégraphie hier de faire savoir en réponse à la pétition des Lazes du 6 Août dernier, qu'il venait de recevoir, que l'Angleterre ayant pris part au Traité de Berlin, ne peut pas sanctionner des procédés non conformes à ce Traité, et que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ne peut donc pas donner son appui ni encourager la moindre résistance à l'occupation Russe de Batoum.

Veuillez accepter, M. le Curé, mes remerciements en anticipation, et agréer, &c.
(Signé) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 340.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 116. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September* 6, 1878.

I HASTEN to communicate to your Lordship the following information which I have just received from Erzeroum:—

The 39th Russian Division, which is now there, consists of 16 battalions of the line, each numbering from 550 to 600 men; 4 batteries or 32 field guns; 1 regiment of Dragoons, 680; 1 of Yeski Cossacks, 750; 1 Orenburg Cossacks, 560; 1 Grenadiers, "Coubouski," 550 horses.

Three months ago the 16 battalions of the line numbered only 6,000 men.

There is a second Division at Passim and Soghanli; another at Kars, and a fourth at Alexandropol.

The Commander-in-chief, General Lazareff, is now at Kars, and the forces at Erzeroum are under the command of General Sherimeteff.

The physical condition of these troops is, on the whole, good. However, since some time they are taken with nostalgia, especially the men, who are fathers of families. There have been amongst them, in the course of last month, three cases of self-destruction, and the sub-officers seem to suffer more than the men themselves. They all long to return home.

Since the three cases of suicide mentioned above have taken place, the Commanders have received orders to spare the troops as much as possible, and to try to ease their minds by music, good food, distribution of tobacco, and of summer clothing.

The Turkish army is represented as being in perfect condition.

Ismail Pasha has under his orders 30 battalions, each numbering from 720 to 750 men; 14 of these battalions are quartered at Erzinghian, 9 at Baiburt, 1 at Permakopan, and 6 at Mamakatoon. Of cavalry there is only 1 regiment, 780 strong, and a second in course of formation.

There are 4 field batteries at Mamakatoon, 2 at Baiburt, 3 at Erzinghian with 9 mountain guns, 6 of which have been sent in the Dersim, perhaps in order to keep the Koords in respect.

Ismail Pasha has, besides, at his disposal, 18 batalions belonging to the Army

Corps of Mesopotamia, 6 of which are at Van and the remainder at Hinis, together with 3 field and 1 mountain batteries, and 2 regiments of cavalry.

The battalions of infantry number from 400 to 500 men, and the regiments of cavalry from 450 to 500 each.

The spirit of the Turkish troops is described as very satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 341.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 117. Political.)

Trebizond, September 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HEAR from different sources from Erzeroum that the Christians in that vilayet are in such fright as to what may happen to them after the departure of the Russians, that they are preparing to follow the Russian army, which, according to appearances, will be moving in a few weeks.

It is reported that the Mussulmans show great hatred to the Christians, and as the latter have been more than arrogant towards the former in their misfortune, their apprehensions may be well grounded.

However, it would seem that the Christians in the towns are not so inclined to emigrate as the rural populations, and that a Committee has even been instituted by the Armenians at Erzeroum to induce and assist the peasants to remain in their homes.

This circumstance shows that, although the Mussulmans of the town of Erzeroum are those who have had especially to suffer from the vexations of the Christians, they are not in great apprehension of the Turks retaliating, and that the real danger which the Christians fear is on the part of the Koords.

Mr. Cole, the American Missionary at Erzeroum, has written to me, on the 1st instant, that if at this juncture I can give an assurance that some Representative of Her Majesty's Government is to go to Armenia as an encouragement to the timid Christians, to send him a telegram. He adds that the people are not to be persuaded by promises, but must have some other visible exponent of actual reforms than the Turks, or he fears there will be large emigration to Russia.

Awaiting your Lordship's instructions on the subject, I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 342.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 118. Political.)

Trebizond, September 7, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to forward yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following telegram:—

"Russians entered Batoum this day at noon. Yussuf Pasha departed before surrender. Dervish Pasha expected here to-morrow. Total of troops arrived, twelve battalions; six are still at Batoum; also old cannon, and cases of munitions. Five hundred Laz families arrived to-day. Several hundred more waiting embarkation."

The day before two Russian corvettes and two transports with troops on board had arrived at Chukoo, five miles from Batoum, and General Koumaroff, with two battalions, from Artwin-ab-Ilkeba.

It was arranged that these two forces would have entered simultaneously next day at Batoum, and that the troops would take their quarters at a distance from the harbour in order not to interfere with the embarkation of the troops and stores.

Yussuf Pasha, whom I have just seen, informed me that he departed from Batoum in the night, not wishing to assist to the surrender of the place.

Dervish Pasha spoke to him of his intention of firing a salute of 101 guns, from which he endeavoured unsuccessfully to dissuade him. As he had no available guns himself, he tried to induce Vice-Admiral Arif Pasha to do so, but he refused categorically to comply with his request.

The Commissioners of the Porte, Nihad Pasha and Ali Bey, who had arrived here with the Governor-General, returned yesterday evening to Batoum in consequence of orders received from Constantinople in the course of the day.

Yussuf Pasha told me that Dervish Pasha has endeavoured by all means to prevent the Laz from emigrating. He wanted to hand the Lazistan, with its inhabitants, to the Russians, and went so far as to send here agents to try and induce the emigrants to return to Batoum.

It may be that the dissatisfaction shown by the Laz emigrants is partly due to the intrigues of Dervish Pasha's agents at Trebizond.

In consequence of a recent order from the Porte, they are all now to receive a ration of half-an-oke a-day, which is hardly sufficient, and arrangements are made by Yussuf Pasha for their location.

Now that the Russians have a free field at Batoum, the emigrants may encounter insuperable difficulties, which can only be smothered by the Special Commissioners which, it is said, the Porte intends to send there. Yussuf Pasha has in the meantime appointed, by authority of the Porte, a Provisional Committee of Emigration.

The populations of the Lazistan would be a valuable addition to Turkey; they are far superior in character to the Circassians and Abazians, and in a future war with Russia would furnish a non-indifferent contingent, having private wrongs to avenge.

The intention of the emigrant Laz Beys is to settle as near as possible, and in all cases not out of the Black Sea, in order to be near at hand in an emergency of this description.

Dervish Pasha is described as not paying the soldiers, although he had money in his hands. 2,000,000 piastres have just been despatched to him from Constantinople.

Yussuf Pasha added that if he had been under the necessity to remain a few days more at Batoum he would have been ill, so disgusted was he with the base intrigues used by Dervish Pasha against the emigrants, whom he represented to the Porte under the darkest colours, and the devices he resorted to in order to impose also upon himself, who was an eye-witness of what was taking place.

When Yussuf Pasha reached Batoum a fortnight ago, Dervish Pasha and the Lazes were on the point of fighting. No particular cause could be assigned for this state of things.

The boats containing the Government munitions, which had been stopped by the Lazes on the Tsaruksoo, having been released shortly after, this incident could not give motive to further misunderstanding. An ill-feeling had sprung up between the Commander-in-chief and the populations long before.

It was caused, it would seem, by the provoking attitude of Dervish Pasha towards the Lazes, and the consequent conviction of the latter, that he was doing his utmost to compel them to submit to the Russians, and to prevent them to emigrate.

When Yussuf Pasha informed them that the Porte was disposed to facilitate their removal to other parts of Turkey, the menacing attitude which they had assumed subsided immediately.

The total number of Laz families that have arrived up to date is about 1,000, or 5,000 souls. No more are expected before two or three months, when they have finished gathering their crops. In the meantime, they send agents to select convenient places for settlement in different parts in this neighbourhood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 343.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 57. Political.)

Galatz, September 5, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 56, Political, of the 2nd instant, on the subject of military movements, I have the honour to report that, on the 2nd instant, a battery of Russian artillery arrived at Galatz, and that on the 3rd instant this battery, together with one which had been stationed at Galatz, left on their return to Russia. There remain in Galatz now only one battalion of the forty-five Russian infantry reserves, there are no cavalry or artillery, and including hospital attendants, &c., the total Russian force in the town does not exceed 1,300 men.

For the last fortnight a large number of Russian troops have daily been passing

through the Tekutch district, marching towards Jassy; it is estimated that between 50,000 and 60,000 men have passed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 344.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 7, 1878.

I TELEGRAPHED last night to your Lordship announcing my arrival here, and have also sent a telegram in cypher, principally on the domicile of the Commission.

The Austrian Ambassador considers it essential that the sittings should take place at Philippopolis. I confess I do not see how they can be satisfactorily carried on elsewhere, especially as regards the administration of the finances. The reports I heard from Mr. White, who met me at Rastchuk, and all I saw during my hurried passage through Bulgaria, confirm me in this view, which is also your Lordship's.

Count Zichy was loud in his praises of M. Kallai. He said he was well known as a Slavonic scholar, and in every respect a man of great accomplishment, and that I should find in him an enlightened and loyal colleague.

Mr. White had already spoken of him in the same sense. For some time M. Kallai was Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, and later entered the Hungarian Parliament, where he opposed M. Tisza, but supported the foreign policy of Count Andrassy. He was, I believe, beaten at the recent elections. He will arrive next week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 345.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 9, 1878.

LAST night I had the honour of meeting the new German Ambassador, Count Hatzfeldt, at Her Majesty's Embassy.

After some general preliminary remarks on Turkey, in which his Excellency deplored the deficiency of leading statesmen, he approached the subject of the Commission. He said the German Commissioner, M. Braunschweig, who had been appointed "à titre provisoire," would be here by the 13th, which day he said had been fixed for the first meeting at Constantinople.

I at once stated my opinion that, although the first meeting as a preliminary one might be in the capital, it was essential for the Commission to hold its sittings at Philippopolis. His Excellency demurred and temporised at this, saying there were many questions that could only be settled here.

I replied that for our task it seemed to me impossible to accomplish it properly at Constantinople. We had no means of information as in other countries, and for one principal part of our functions, namely, the administration of the finances of the province, it was impossible for us to discharge this duty properly except on the spot.

His Excellency then went on to say—always, however, with the express reserve of one only recently arrived in the country—that there appeared to him a desire on the part of the Turks to evade the position forced on them by the war. In all these things, he said, we must act with equity and justice, and fulfil our engagements. I told his Excellency that I entirely agreed with him, and that it was our duty to act "froidement et consciencieusement," and, as M. Tisza had said in one of his speeches in the Hungarian Parliament, neither with sympathy nor antipathy. As far as the Commission was concerned, it appeared to me there could be no mistake. Its duty had been clearly traced out by the Treaty of Berlin, an act which we all knew had been settled at an assembly of the leading statesmen of Europe, animated with but one object, that

of European peace. In this interest they had laid down that Eastern Roumelia was to belong to Turkey, that there the Sultan was to be upheld in his military and political rights, while the freedom and prosperity of the populations were equally to be studied. All we had to do was to penetrate ourselves with the spirit of the Treaty, and carry out its details in a manner likely to be durable. If all the Commissioners approached their task with this purpose, there was then some chance of finishing their business within the time laid down in the Treaty.

His Excellency still returned to the question of the evasion by Turkey of her Treaty obligations. He said she did not appreciate her position, or show any desire to carry out her engagements in a proper spirit. "For instance," he said, "look at Batoum. Turkey declared she could not surrender Batoum, and made difficulties about it; but, after all, she had given it up, and there was no difficulty. Why had she not done so sooner?"

I answered that I could not officially discuss questions of general Turkish politics, as my competency was limited to one particular point. But in Eastern Roumelia the Turks had not broken the Treaty, nor had they the means of doing so. I was sorry I could not say the same of the Russians. I did not allude to rumours in the street, which reported the Russians to declare they would never leave Eastern Roumelia; but I had learnt that, in direct contravention of the Treaty, the Russian authorities had been organizing a militia in that province. The Treaty laid down that internal order was to be preserved by a gendarmerie and a local militia, constituted according to the religion of localities, and officered by the Sultan. Instead of this the Russians had instituted a militia composed exclusively of one religion, and officered by themselves.

Count Hatzfeldt answered that a militia could always be remoulded ("on peut toujours remanier une milice"). But, I observed, no "remaniement" was contemplated by the Treaty, nor should it have been rendered necessary.

In every respect Count Hatzfeldt was personally most kind and courteous, saying he would always be glad to see me, and to discuss privately any question on which I wished to speak with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 346.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 20.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 10, 1878.

SIR HENRY LAYARD took me with Lord Donoughmore yesterday to the Grand Vizier. His Highness told us that the Turkish Commissioner was not yet appointed, but promised to appoint one immediately. I urged him to lose no time, as affairs were every day becoming more complicated. I think the continued absence of Caratheodory Pasha at Vienna has somewhat deranged the plans of the Porte, as he had been generally suggested for the place.

Safvet Pasha told me that the wish of the Porte was for the formation in Eastern Roumelia of a state of things which should be the envy of surrounding States and communities, and he was strongly in favour of our meeting at Philippopolis. I told his Highness that I conceived our object was to combine a strong and efficient executive with the freedom and prosperity of the governed, and this was clearly the intention of the Berlin Treaty. I also urged on his Highness the necessity of preparing some sort of basis for discussion, as it would be much more satisfactory to learn the views of the Porte and discuss them than to debate in the dark on proposals brought forward by any other Commissioners. He promised to do something of the kind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 347.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 21.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 10, 1878.

LAST night, at a reception held by Her Majesty's Ambassadress, I had a conversation of some length with the French Ambassador. I need not trouble your Lordship with any detailed account of his Excellency's language (which was very friendly towards England), as it merely expressed the views entertained by your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government on the affairs of Eastern Roumelia; and he strongly urged Philippopolis as the scene of our labours. He said this was his very decided view, but that he could not answer for the Commissioner, who will arrive on Saturday. He promised, however, to telegraph to-day for instructions on this head.

The Italian Commissioner was at the Embassy, and he agreed with me generally as to the expediency of our proceeding to Philippopolis, though he is not anxious to remain there long.

I think much will be gained by establishing this point, which I now hope will require no long discussion or delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 348.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 11, 1878.

THE religious question in Eastern Roumelia will be one of considerable delicacy, and on its proper solution will much depend the future security of the province. If in the Commission it is proposed to do away with the Exarchate as it stands, the proposal will at once be taken by Russia as directed against herself, and a bitterness would be infused into a discussion, the object of which might perhaps be achieved in a simpler manner.

Article XX of the Berlin Treaty stipulates that the Porte undertakes to enforce in Eastern Roumelia the general laws of the Empire on religious liberty in favour of all forms of worship.

Article LXII lays down in the broadest form the principle of religious equality.

Nothing, therefore, could be more consonant with the Treaty than the assimilation of all churches and creeds, not only in freedom, but in privileges. According to the doctrines now largely accepted in Europe, religious freedom implies entire severance from the State.

I believe that in the East this principle of *laisser-faire* is impossible. My view, therefore, is, that all creeds in Eastern Roumelia, while enjoying complete independence in their ecclesiastical administration, should be represented in some form in general or local legislative institutions.

There is, of course, the question of the Holy Oil. At this moment, I can see no objection to this being received from the Fanar, as it is, I believe, in Roumania. I will, however, make further inquiries on this point.

I think the ideas here suggested would be acceptable to the Porte and to the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 349.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 23.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 11, 1878.

I YESTERDAY saw a gentleman who has been several years in Russia, who likes the Russians and sees a good deal of them here.

He told me that there would be no difficulty in obtaining their consent to very liberal institutions, that they intended to introduce into Bulgaria the Russian system of communal and provincial Councils established after the emancipation of the serfs, which is very liberal in appearance, but which in Russia, I believe, has not answered. Some years ago I had occasion to study these institutions, which had then been promulgated, but had not begun to work. The principal feature of them is that while there are communal and cantonal Councils, in which the peasants are represented, the superior Council of the province represents only a superior class of voters, nobles and merchants of a high caste. I do not think the plan would work in Eastern Roumelia, and if introduced into Bulgaria it can only be to assimilate Bulgarian institutions to those of Russia. It entirely cuts out the working classes from any share in provincial or national legislation or control.

If the scheme has broken down in Russia, where there is a higher class, how can it possibly succeed in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, where, as far as I can gather, there is none?

I have read a small book published in France, I think in 1862 or 1863, sketching out the whole of this system. It was called "Organisation Sociale de la Russie." Your Lordship might think it worth while to look at it, and I should feel grateful if a copy could be sent me here.

My informant told me that in his experience everything in Russia appertaining to Government was very liberal on paper, but always eluded in practice as being unworkable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 350.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 24.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 13, 1878.

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegram authorizing Lord Donoughmore's mission into Eastern Roumelia. I think it most important, and so does the Ambassador. He will start to-morrow.

I beg to inclose a copy of a letter of instructions I have addressed him privately, impressing on him the necessity of observing the injunction contained in your Lordship's telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

P.S.—Sir Henry Layard has been promised by the Russian Ambassador letters for the Russian authorities in Eastern Roumelia in favour of Lord Donoughmore.

H. D.-W.

Inclosure in No. 350.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Earl of Donoughmore.

My dear Lord Donoughmore, *Therapia, September* 3, 1878.

AFTER consulting with Her Majesty's Ambassador, I think it would be desirable that you should, as soon as you possibly can, repair to Philippopolis. The object of your journey will be to fulfil your chief function as Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioner for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, by obtaining, through your personal

observation and by inquiries on the spot, information of an authentic nature on the subject submitted to the European Commission.

1. As regards finance.

Before your departure I hope to furnish you with some details of the past finances of the country. Your present object will be to discover the actual position of the country in this respect, as far as any inquiry near the capital will give it you. The state of the inhabitants is supposed to be very deplorable. You can ascertain whether any system of taxation or collection of revenues have been organized by the Russian military administration, whether there are any taxes not yet given in, or whether the Russians have taken for themselves any part, and, if so, what part, of the revenues; in fact, whether the whole taxes leviable, whether more or less, have been taken by the Russians.

You are aware that by the Treaty the troops occupying both Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia are limited to 50,000 men—six divisions of infantry and two divisions of cavalry. These are to be maintained at the expense of the country occupied.

I should be glad to know your opinion, formed on the best sources of authority within your reach, which must be very imperfect, as to the approximate number of troops in Eastern Roumelia, whether they are in excess of, or below, the 25,000 stipulated in the Treaty, and whether, in your opinion, the sums collected by the Russian authorities as taxes are equal to, in excess of, or below the sums necessary for the maintenance of the army of occupation.

A very serious question has arison respecting the militia of Eastern Roumelia. By the XVth Article of the Treaty, it is laid down that "internal order is maintained in Eastern Roumelia by a native gendarmerie, assisted by a local militia. In forming these corps, the officers of which are nominated by the Sultan, regard shall be paid in the different localities to the religion of the inhabitants."

Notwithstanding these provisions, I learn on good authority that the Russian Administration is organizing and arming in the neighbourhood of Philippopolis and Tatar-Bazardjik a militia composed exclusively of Bulgarians.

It will be well that you should at once obtain all possible details in this matter.

2. Your next care will be to ascertain the social and educational status of the people in reference to their future representation in popular institutions.

I learn that, as a general rule, the Roumelian people are divided into four classes:—

(*a.*) Peasants cultivating on the Métayer system land hired from Turkish proprietors.
(*b.*) The Turkish proprietors themselves.
(*c.*) Turks and Bulgarians living in the towns and carrying on trade.
(*d.*) Greeks and Jews.

Your opinion on the different condition of these classes, and also on the existence of any other class of the population presenting any marked features, would be of great use.

I also wish to learn, as far as you can gather, the distinctive religious features, both of race and religion, in the country generally, and in particular localities; what proportion of the Mussulman population are of Bulgarian blood or of Turkish origin; the relative numbers, wealth, and influence of other religious sects or religions in the country, and how they administer among themselves their ecclesiastical or religious laws.

It will also be necessary to know the exact nature of the administration instituted, and at present carried on, by the Russian authorities for the province, and to ascertain how far the Bulgarian population is well-affected, or not, to this rule.

All information you can obtain, of whatever kind, will be highly useful and acceptable.

Her Majesty's Ambassador will instruct the Vice-Consul, Mr. Calvert, to give you the fullest assistance, which I have no doubt you will find advantageous.

I give you a Cypher and Decypher, to be kept in your own personal charge, and to be returned to my custody whenever we meet, whether here or in Roumelia.

I shall beg you to communicate with me as often as possible; and should you not be able to keep a copy of your letters, I will have them copied here for you, and send or give them to you later.

If you should ever require a messenger to bring me any letter, I will send you one on hearing from you by telegraph.

Please to keep an account of your expenses with as much accuracy as possible, obtaining vouchers when practicable.

I am certain that your tact and knowledge of the world will keep you out of difficulties, knowing how your every word and movement will be scanned and criticised, and how momentous is the task at which we are labouring.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 351.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 25. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 13, 1878.*

M. DE BRAUNSCHWEIG, the German Commissioner, called upon me yesterday. He told me that, Germany having no direct interests in the East, his part was that of conciliation. He said he hoped that this would be the disposition of all his colleagues, and expressed a wish that I should be on good terms "même avec notre collègue de la Russie."

I told him that I considered a task like ours could only be brought to a satisfactory end by all those concerned going into it "en bons camarades;" that if the Commission were animated by this wish matters might progress easily, and perhaps be ended within the period fixed by the Treaty.

All required was the honest execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and, this admitted, useless discussions might be avoided.

He expressed himself glad at my answer.

With regard to Philippopolis, he agreed that after one or two preliminary sittings we must adjourn to that town, and afterwards said he had taken steps to obtain some lodging there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 352.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 62. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that an Austrian brigade attacked on the 3rd instant a body of insurgents which had assembled near Mokra, about twelve miles from this town. The weather was very unfavourable, and the rain and mist in the mountains somewhat marred the result of the expedition, but the insurgents were dispersed and a considerable number of them made prisoners. These prisoners, I am informed on good authority, were all shot the following day by orders from Serajevo. The Austrians are said to have lost in this affair fifteen killed and forty-six wounded.

The information received here from the east of the province is not reassuring. The whole country from Tuzla down to Taslidza is said to be in revolt, the instigator and leader of the movement being Ismail Bey, who was named by the people at the commencement of the disturbances commander in Bosnia, and who managed to escape when the insurgents were defeated at Klokoti, or Bihlavac, as the Austrians term the engagement.

Yesterday also communications on the Brood Road were again interrupted near Maglaï, and to-day fighting is reported in the neighbourhood of Jehče.

It is evident, in fact, that the Mussulman insurrection is rather gaining strength than otherwise, and that the occupation of Serajevo has not had that moral effect in the country that was anticipated. It has also been remarked that a great many of the Mussulmans of this town have latterly disappeared, and it is supposed that they have gone to join the insurrection. There is very little hope of a speedy pacification of the country, and General Philippovich assured me two days ago that he had positive information that arms and ammunition continue to reach the Turks in Bosnia by way of Mitrovica.

A Mussulman conspiracy was said to have been discovered in this town three days ago, and during the night some arrests were made, but yesterday all those arrested were released, and there appears to be no truth in the existence of any conspiracy.

The head-quarters of the Austrian army of occupation will, I hear, shortly be transferred from Serajevo to Travnik, with a view, probably, to be nearer the base of operations against the insurgents in the Spreca valley.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 353.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 1118.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 10, 1878.

THE assassination of Mehemet Ali Pasha has made a most painful impression upon the Sultan and his Government, and has added to the public anxiety. According to the accounts received at the Porte, the Mushir had reached Ypek with two weak companies of regular troops. He was received in the house of a certain Abdullah Pasha, an influential notable of the place with whom he had been formerly acquainted.

Soon after his arrival he invited some influential Albanian Beys to meet him, and endeavoured to convince them of the necessity of accepting the decision of the Congress of Berlin, and of not opposing the cession of that part of Albanian territory which had been awarded to Servia and Montenegro. His advice was ill-received, and the Chiefs left the house in anger. Shortly afterwards it was surrounded by a crowd of armed men, who commenced an attack upon it.

It would appear that Mehemet Ali Pasha and the small force that was with him succeeded in defending themselves until nightfall, when the fighting ceased. He was then able to telegraph to the Porte that he was surrounded by Albanians, and that he was in imminent danger, as he could scarcely hope to hold out against very superior numbers, but that he was prepared to sacrifice his life in the discharge of his duty. He summoned to his assistance two battalions of regular troops that were in the neighbourhood; but, instead of coming to his help, they appear to have joined the insurgents. On the following morning the attack was renewed by an increasing crowd, who succeeded, after considerable bloodshed on both sides, in setting fire to the house. The Mushir, in attempting to retreat from it, fell into their hands, and was literally cut to pieces. Abdullah Pasha, his host, who remained faithful to him to the last, one of his aides-de-camp, his secretary, and some other members of his household, shared his fate. His second aide-de-camp succeeded in effecting his escape.

Such is the account received at the Porte of this tragic and deplorable event. It would appear that the Albanians were incensed against Mehemet Ali Pasha for having signed the Treaty of Berlin, and for having, as they believe, betrayed them by consenting to the surrender of part of their country to Servia and Montenegro. They have resolved not to accept the decision of Europe, which transfers them without their concurrence, like so many chattels, to their secular enemies, and were determined to wreak their vengeance upon the functionary whom the Porte had sent to effect the transfer.

When Mehemet Ali Pasha was named for this mission some persons objected to the appointment on the ground that he had incurred the enmity of the Albanians in consequence of the severity with which he had put down brigandage during the time he held military command in their country. It was also felt that as one of the Turkish Plenipotentiaries at Berlin he would be especially obnoxious to the people who resented the surrender of Albanian territory to the two neighbouring Principalities. I am assured on good authority that some Albanian Chiefs had telegraphed to the Porte, after Mehemet Ali's departure, that they would not receive him, and that if he persisted in his mission he would be killed. It does not appear that he was made acquainted with this warning, and some of his friends consequently maintain that the Turkish Government, dissatisfied with his conduct at the Congress in yielding too much, allowed him to go to certain death. On the other hand it is affirmed that the Porte, finding that it was accused of inciting the Albanians and Bosnians to resist the decrees of the Congress, and wishing to give a proof of its good faith, chose as its

Representative to carry out the decision of Europe a man in whose loyal character it believed the Powers had confidence, and who had himself signed the Treaty of Berlin. Mehemet Ali Pasha called upon me on the day of his departure from Constantinople, and expressed to me, as I informed your Lordship at the time, his firm intention to execute his mission in an impartial and conciliatory manner, and his hope that the Princes of Servia and Montenegro would meet him in a similar spirit. I believe that he had been in communication with them before his death, and that they were satisfied with the desire he showed to bring his difficult and painful mission to a satisfactory conclusion.

The death of Mehemet Ali Pasha adds another victim to the many Turkish functionaries who have been sacrificed to the resentment of those who appear determined to dispute the right of Europe to hand them over, without consulting their wishes and interests, to a foreign Power. It may also furnish an answer to the accusation against the Porte of having secretly incited the populations of the invaded provinces and of Albania to resist the Austrian occupation, whilst it acceded to it by signing the Treaty of Berlin.

That Turkey should feel the humiliation and sacrifice imposed upon her by the loss of some of her most valuable and important territories in Europe, and that she should protest against it, is not unnatural; but Turkish statesmen, unwise as they may be, would scarcely venture to provoke a war with a powerful neighbour, which could only end in adding to her disasters.

The resistance that Austria has met with in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the present warlike attitude of the Albanians may be attributed to the fact that in the new territorial distribution of Turkey in Europe, the existence of the Turkish and Mussulman population has been, to a great extent, forgotten or overlooked.

The Porte is held responsible for a resistance which any proud, independent, and warlike people would naturally make to their transfer to a foreign Power, alien to them in religion, in laws, and in customs, and suspected of a design to deprive them of their liberty, their property, and their ancient rights. It must be remembered that the Beys and Mussulman inhabitants of Bosnia and Albania have been with difficulty brought to recognize the authority of the Porte, and that the want of power on the part of the Turkish Government to enforce it has been made by Austria the pretext for the invasion and virtual annexation of the former province. And yet she now holds the Porte responsible for not having compelled its inhabitants to submit to a foreign occupation, and to receive the invaders as their friends.

Mehemet Ali Pasha was of a kindly, generous, and charitable disposition, and had the reputation of being an honest man. He has died so poor that his widow and children have been left without means of support or even a home. They have asked me to speak to the Sultan on their behalf.

Turkey has lost in Mehemet Ali one of her few capable Commanders, and His Majesty a very faithful servant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I inclose an account, translated from the "Terdjoumani-Chark," relating to the murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha, which I believe to have been written by one of the survivors.

A. H. L.

Inclosure in No. 353.

Newspaper Extract.

MEURTRE DE MEHMED ALI PACHA.—Le "Terdjoumani-Chark" publie dans son numéro d'aujourd'hui les détails suivants sur l'affaire de Yacova. Ce journal affirme l'authenticité de ces renseignements, mais il oublie de dire la source où il les a puisés :—

"Mehmed Ali Pacha, à son arrivée à Prisrend avec sa suite, a mandé auprès de lui les membres de la Réunion Albanaise et les notables du pays, et a donné lecture devant eux des documents qu'il avait été chargé de leur communiquer par le Gouvernement Impérial.

"Le lendemain, également, une réunion de ces mêmes membres eut lieu chez le Pacha, dans laquelle il a expliqué les motifs qui ont forcé le Gouvernement à céder

devant les décisions du Congrès de Berlin, décisions relatives aux cessions de territoire à la Servie et au Monténégro. Il leur a montré la carte et le tracé des nouvelles frontières en leur donnant le conseil de rester tranquilles et de ne faire aucune résistance à ces décisions.

"Quelques-unes des assistants ont protesté, par patriotisme, aux paroles du Mehmed Ali; mais ce dernier cherchait toujours à calmer leurs esprits.

"Dans cet intervalle, quelques insensés se sont réunis dans un 'medressé' et ont commencé à exciter le peuple, et l'agitation a commencé alors à prendre des proportions graves.

"Le même jour, un homme armé d'un fusil Martini-Henry s'est présenté devant l'employé chargé de transmettre en Français les dépêches du Maréchal. Il se trouvait devant un café avec les employés du télégraphe; cet individu lui tira un coup de fusil et l'étendit mort. L'assassin fut arrêté et reconnu comme repris de justice; mais on dit qu'il faisait partie de la réunion du 'medressé.'

"Mehmed Ali a demandé alors par le télégraphe l'envoi de deux bataillons le plus tôt possible. Cette nouvelle s'étant répandue parmi le peuple, ce dernier a commencé à se demander si le Muchir, à cause d'un assassinat, les traiterait tous comme des révoltés?

"Le même jour Mehmed Ali Pacha a dit qu'il avait l'intention de se rendre à Yacova pour chercher à compléter sa mission. Les membres de la Réunion Albanaise, devant lesquels il avait exprimé ce désir, lui ont conseillé de ne pas y aller, en lui disant que les habitants de Yacova étant très-mauvais, il exposait sa vie en se présentant ainsi et qu'il devait plutôt envoyer une députation composée de notables de Prisrend afin de préparer les esprits des habitants.

"Mehmed Ali Pacha a longtemps résisté à exécuter ce projet, mais il a cédé à la fin. Par conséquent, une Commission, composée d'Abdullah Pacha de Yacova, Hassan Pacha de Calkandelen, Ahmed Hamdi Effendi, Molla de Mourteza, et Osman Effendi de Prisrend, et Sadyk Bey de Debré, a été envoyée à Yacova.

"Mehmed Ali Pacha, au lieu d'attendre le résultat de cette mission et contre l'avis des notables, a quitté Prisrend, deux jours après, sans avoir reçu aucune réponse qui l'engageât à se rendre à Yacova.

"A son arrivée dans cette dernière ville le Muchir a fait appeler auprès de lui les notables qu'il avait envoyés et leur a demandé les résultats de leurs actes.

"La Commission a répondu que les Chefs des Malissors n'étant pas encore arrivés leur mission était encore stérile, et alors Lalkandelenli Hassan Pacha et les notables de Prisrend lui ont déclaré que par suite de l'attitude qu'il a prise ils considéraient leur mission comme terminée et ont pris congé de lui et sont retournés à Prisrend.

"Le lendemain Mehmed Ali a voulu se rendre à Ipek. Abdullah Pacha, chez qui il se trouvait, s'opposa à ce désir et lui a fait connaître le nouveau danger au devant duquel il se jetait s'il exécutait ce projet; mais le Pacha ne donna aucune attention à ces sages conseils et donna l'ordre que l'on préparât l'escorte qui devait aller avec lui.

"Vers le soir, les Chefs des Malissors furent informés de la décision qu'avait prise le Muchir et quand les gens du conak et du Maréchal s'occupaient de faire leur 'iftar,' une cinquante de ces Chefs, armés de fusils Martini-Henry, se sont réunis devant le conak.

"Quand les gens de la maison les eurent aperçus et leur eurent demandé ce qu'ils voulaient, ils répondirent qu'ils voulaient voir le Pacha.

"Les gens du conak leur répondirent qu'il fallait, pour voir Mehmed Ali Pacha, venir sans armes, et les engagèrent à se retirer.

"Les portes ont été fermées et on vit que le nombre des Malissors qui entouraient la maison se grossissait considérablement; on les évalue au nombre de 1,500.

"Une fois les portes fermées, les assaillants ont commencé à tirer sur le conak, et alors Mehmed Ali Pacha, persuadé que les rebelles n'oseraient tirer sur l'uniforme que le Padichah lui a confié, s'est habillé, et ayant pris ses décorations, il voulut sortir. Abdullah Pacha et les autres lui ont répondu que pendant la nuit on ne pourrait distinguer son uniforme et par conséquent qu'il serait tué tout de même.

"La nuit jusqu'à 7 heures à la Turque (1½) s'est passée ainsi. Plus tard un 'hessa' (entente) s'établit de part et d'autre, et les assaillants se retirèrent et s'établirent à un endroit près du conak.

"Ils ont alors même fermé les bureaux télégraphiques, et Mehmed Ali Pacha fut forcé d'envoyer un exprès pour prier qu'on expédiât le plus tôt possible au moins l'un des deux bataillons qu'il avait demandés à Yacova.

"Ce jour-là, le bataillon est arrivé et deux compagnies ont été installées dans le conak et les autres dans les localités environnantes. Mais les Malissors les ayant cernées, elles n'ont pu résister à la soif et la faim, et le lendemain, malgré l'ordre de leur Chef, le bataillon a remis les armes aux Malissors et s'est retiré. Ces derniers sont alors rentrés dans le conak et ont massacré tous les hommes de la maison d'Abdullah Pacha; Mehmed Ali Pacha a pu cependant sortir pour s'enfuir dans une autre localité. La maison d'Abdullah fut brûlée.

"Les Malissors se mirent à la poursuite du Maréchal et on sait le reste."

Le "Ter-djouman Chark" promet de donner demain des détails sur les motifs qui ont causé cet assassinat.

No. 354.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 1119.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 10, 1878.

KIANI PASHA has been removed from the Ministry of Finance. He is an honest man, but old and not of much financial capacity. He is succeeded by Zuhdi Effendi, who was recently the Financial Agent of the Porte in England, and on his return to Constantinople was appointed Director-General of the Customs. The Sultan informed me, a short time ago, that he was not satisfied with Kiani Pasha and intended to dismiss him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 355.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 1122. Secret.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 11, 1878.

PRINCE LABANOFF, when speaking to me yesterday about the state of affairs in Bosnia and Albania, stated that he had learnt, from sources upon which he placed full trust, that large supplies of arms and ammunition were being sent by the Salonica-Mitrovitza railway to the insurgents in both these provinces, four times larger, his Excellency said, than had been forwarded during the Servian war by the same route. The Prince observed that he had no reason to doubt the perfect good faith and loyalty of Safvet Pasha and of some of the Ministers, and that he did not accuse them of conniving at, or countenancing, these proceedings. He had, however, reason to believe that a "high personage" and the Ulema were responsible for them, and were secretly encouraging the resistance that was being made to the decisions of the Congress of Berlin.

I presume that Prince Labanoff meant the Sultan when he referred to a "high personage." I thought it, therefore, desirable to speak confidentially on the subject to Safvet Pasha, and to represent earnestly to his Highness the serious consequences that might ensue if Russia could induce Europe to believe that the Sultan was personally responsible for the events that were now taking place in Albania and the provinces occupied by Austria.

His Highness laughed at the idea of the Ulema having any share in the matter. As regards the sending of arms and ammunition, he solemnly protested that he knew nothing whatever about it, and that if the Seraskier had taken any such step it was entirely upon his own responsibility, although he might be acting upon secret instructions from the Palace. His Highness declared, however, that, as far as he was aware, no such instructions had been given. He entirely agreed with me in thinking that it would be exceedingly dangerous to afford Russia any grounds for accusing the Sultan of being personally concerned in any attempt to incite the Bosnians and Albanians to resist the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and in providing them with the means of doing so.

I mentioned to your Lordship a short time ago (see my telegram No. 801 of the 30th ultimo) that the Austro-Hungarian Government had requested, through Count Zichy, that its Consul at Prisrend might go to Mitrovitza and make a full inquiry into

the alleged transport of arms and ammunition through that place to Bosnia, and that Safvet Pasha had at once consented to the request.

It appears that his Highness was subsequently warned by the local authorities that, in consequence of the agitation which prevailed amongst the Mussulman population of Albania on account of the Austrian invasion, the presence of an Austrian Consul making the proposed inquiries might lead to serious consequences and grave complications. The matter has consequently, I believe, been allowed to drop for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 356.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1126. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 12, 1878.*

IT having been rumoured that M. Fournier, on his return from Paris, had held very threatening language to Safvet Pasha, to induce the Porte to agree to the territorial concession that it is called upon under the Treaty of Berlin to make to Greece, I asked his Highness this morning whether they were well founded.

He replied that M. Fournier had, on the contrary, held more conciliatory language on the subject than he had done before leaving. He had simply expressed his opinion, which was no doubt that of his Government, that Turkey would do well to come to terms with Greece as soon as possible, in order to avoid a misunderstanding with that country, which would be a cause of fresh embarrassment. His Excellency hinted that the rectification of the frontier suggested by the Congress was merely a recommendation, and that if the Porte had substantial reasons for objecting to it, the most advisable course for it to adopt would be to make some other proposal which might be discussed, and means might thus be found to satisfy the Greeks. M. Fournier, his Highness went on to say, hinted that although the Porte might absolutely refuse to make any concession to Greece, it would find itself under the necessity of giving way, sooner or later; but he did not do so in terms of menace.

This account of M. Fournier's language to the Grand Vizier quite agrees with that which he told me he had held to his Highness.

I observed to Safvet Pasha that in my opinion the advice given to him by the French Ambassador was very wise, and I asked him whether he intended to follow it. He made a gesture to give me to understand that, although he was ready and willing to do so, there were influences at work to prevent such an arrangement, which were too strong for him to overcome at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 357.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1130.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Consul Blunt at Larissa. He forwards Reports of brigandage from Armyro and Carditza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 357.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, August 31, 1878.

Sir,

IN my Reports to your Excellency of the 7th, 22nd, and 29th instant, I referred to the conciliatory action of the Turkish military authorities in Thessaly in carrying

out the Convention which exists between Greece and Turkey for the mutual surrender of military deserters.

I now learn that Ali Saib Pasha, the Commander-in-chief here, has been instructed by the Porte not to deliver up in future to the Hellenic authorities any of their deserters who may cross the border into Thessaly.

A similar instruction has been sent, I believe, to Hamdi Pasha, the Commander of the forces in Epirus.

It appears that these instructions have been issued by the Porte in consequence of the Hellenic authorities not showing a corresponding disposition to deliver up, conformably with the Convention in question, the Turkish deserters who have taken refuge in Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 357.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, September 2, 1878.*

THE Acting Governor of Armyro reports that on the 25th ultimo eight Greek inhabitants of the Christian village of Goura, on this side of the border, had a successful encounter, while going from Armyro to their village, with a band of Sarakatchan robbers who were concealed and lying in wait for them in a defile five hours from Armyro and two from Goura.

The brigands seized and carried off as hostage one of the Greeks who had strayed in advance of his companions; these, however, being well armed, subsequently went stealthily in pursuit and unexpectedly fell upon the brigands, of whom they wounded two, killed three, and captured one alive, and rescued, moreover, the hostage. They brought in triumph the captured brigand to Armyro, and delivered him up to the authorities, together with the heads which they cut off from the bodies of the three brigands they had killed.

The Governor of Thessaly at once telegraphed to the authorities at Armyro to bury the heads, and to admonish the villagers against the barbarous practice of mutilating the bodies of dead brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 357.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, September 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a Report from Mr. Longworth upon the state of insecurity in the district of Carditza, which he has recently visited.

I have brought the substance of this Report to the knowledge of the Commander-in-chief, Ali Saib Pasha, and I have pressed upon him the urgency of adopting more adequate measures for the repression of brigandage in those parts.

He asked me for the list of the brigand bands as furnished by Mr. Longworth, and at once telegraphed on the subject to Shereff Pasha, the Commander of the troops at Carditza, directing him to make immediate and efficient arrangements, in concert with the Commanders of the troops at Domoco and Tricala, for the extirpation of the bands in question. He also told me that, if necessary, he will send more troops to Carditza to assist in the above service.

Unfortunately, just at this moment the efficiency of the troops in Thessaly is very much affected by the fevers which prevail in the country at this season of the year. The military hospitals are full, and there is no prospect of any improvement in this direction until the hot weather subsides.

Yesterday the thermometer rose to 30 degrees (Reaumur) in the shade, and during the past month the temperature was rarely below 28 degrees in the shade.

But whether the troops be efficient or not, I see no cause to hope that there will be a cessation of brigandage and its accompanying evils, so long as the minds of the

authorities and of the inhabitants in general are disturbed by a state of uncertainty as regards the final issue of the Greek question.

The prevailing impression of impending changes on the Government of the province has produced a complete deadlock in all the branches of the administration, and a sense of uneasiness and discontent throughout the entire community.

What, however, also adds to the general insecurity is the complete disorganization of the police service of the province, caused by the reduction of its number and pay.

Shortly after the late war began, the police on duty in Thessaly was reduced from 1,600 to 850 men; and the pay of the latter from 100 piastres (silver) to 70 piastres (paper), equal to about 4s., per month to each man. These arrangements naturally produced a large amount of dissatisfaction in the force, and were followed by wholesale desertions from it.

It is said, and said with truth, I believe, that more than 200 men have left the ranks, most of whom have since joined the brigand bands.

Upon my representations, the Governor of Thessaly reported fully on this subject to the Governor-General of Epirus, and, among other suggestions he proposed that he should be authorized to strengthen the police establishments in the province and increase the pay of the men; but, so far, his suggestions have not been noticed.

I have also strongly urged that the Chief of the Police, Amoush Agha, should be removed and replaced by a more efficient and trustworthy officer, but without effect, I regret to say, although Said Pasha assures me that he has not failed to recommend my suggestion to his chief at Janina, Ahmet Rassim Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 357.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Carditza, August 27, 1878.

Sir,

THE following is a Report upon the present state of this district:—

Brigandage is an evil which is daily increasing, and no effective measures are being taken towards its suppression. The authorities of the district should be directed to give their serious attention to the matter, for it is strange to say that the Major-General here, in charge of 2,000 men, showed himself, in his conversations with me, far more interested in the question of making barley bread for the soldiers than on the subject of the pursuit and punishment of robbers.

I have made the tour of the district, and find that there is scarcely a village that has not been molested by the brigands.

The plains of Carditza extend over a space of about twenty-four miles in diameter, and within the northern half of this circle there are no less than eight bands of brigands. They have each singled out for themselves their own grounds of operation and hiding-places. Their principal retreats are the numerous swamps and marshes covered with high reeds, in the midst of which they have constructed stages as places of refuge in time of danger, to which they resort through the mud and water of the swamps. The following is a list of the bands of brigands and the locality of their movements in the plains lying north of Carditza:—

Whose Band.	What Race.	Where Centered.
1. Sinan	Tosca-Albanian	Coutchari.
2. Gyo Mateos	Greek	Fulama.
3. Dimitri-Gergikos ..	Ditto	Paraprotsani
4. Stepho-Gergikos ..	Ditto	Mukrohori.
5. Sarakatchan	Ditto	Phanari-Mugoullah.
6. Unknown	Tosca-Albanian	Mayromati.
7. Ditto	Ditto	Karniena.
8. Mezlan	Ditto	Loxulu.

The plains to the south, south-east, and south-west of the town are equally infested by brigands. These are the ones that skirt the Agrapha Mountains, places which have become now the haunts of bandits, for the sub-district town of Rendina, together with its ten villages of Yenitchon, Papa, Kaitza, Dranista, Apelin, Smokovo, Hotenna, Lokress, Irapsin, and Ayio-Janni are entirely abandoned by their inhabitants.

A few days ago a father sought his lost child, and a husband his lost wife, in Agrapha. They were found and rescued by the payment of ransoms, but on their way homewards, being captured by another band of brigands, the woman and the child were once more carried off as hostages. The husband and the father are now in the most hopeless despair. There is nothing to be done, money is their only chance, and of that they have little or none.

Cases of this sort are simply innumerable, and there are some that are worse, all of which tend to show that complete anarchy prevails.

Sometimes, though rarely, if the ransom is long in forthcoming, the chopped-off ear, nose, or finger of the hostage is sent to his relatives as a proof that their demands are being made in real earnestness, to which is added a warning that the head would soon follow if they do not yield at once to their wishes.

Two children of a priest of the village of Coutchari underwent this cruelty, I am told, since my arrival in these parts.

The act was inflicted upon them by Sinan's band of Tosca-Albanian robbers.

There are also an indefinite number of what may be called night-walkers in league with the brigands. These men, who during the day remain at their villages in pursuance of their ordinary occupations, and during the night co-operate with the brigands, form in reality the very life-strings of brigandage, for their knowledge of the country, their acquaintance with the people, and their deceptive conduct, render them of vital importance in executing the combinations of the professional brigands.

Frequently the concealed vocation of these men gets revealed to a few of the inhabitants, and then no accusation is brought against them.

I have several times asked the villagers the reason they do not expose such men to the authorities, and their almost invariable answer was that fear prevents them from doing so; for if arrested they would for a bribe probably secure their release, and then their revengeful inclinations would prompt them to worse acts of depredation.

The cause of this unsettled state of the district may partly be attributed to the certainty with which the annexation of this country to Greece is regarded by the lower classes, for I am told that those of a rapacious and predatory disposition consider this their last chance, and are determined to do their utmost at increasing their already ill-gotten gains.

The effect of all this is that the greatest fear pervades society, for there is no knowing an honest man, and even friends and relatives mistrust each other.

The deficiency of the military force and the laxity of the authorities render matters more deplorable.

The other day I proposed the formation of a cordon of 500 men for the Agrapha Mountains to extend from Alambraze to Phanari. Such a line would consist of ten military posts of fifty men each, encamped at villages not half-an-hour distant from each other, and situated in the plain at the foot of the mountain slopes. All agreed that such a plan would prove most successful; but the Major-General expressed his regret that from want of troops he was unable to make such an arrangement, for he told me that of 2,000 men, more than 1,000 are on the sick list. I have since, however, heard that he has more than the required number at strategic positions of no earthly use except in case of war with Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

No. 358.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1132.) [B.B.] *

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Salonica and Prevesa, reporting upon affairs in those districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* With Inclosures 4 and 5 only.

Inclosure 1 in No. 358.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the arrival here, on the 22nd instant of a Turkish man-of-war transport, having on board Field-Marshal Mehemet Ali Pasha, late Plenipotentiary to the Berlin Congress, and of his departure yesterday, the 23rd instant, by railway for Prisrend and the Servian frontier.

His mission is to endeavour to engage the Albanians, the Montenegrins, and the Servians to respect the tenor of the Berlin Treaty; and it is said he will push on into Bosnia and Herzegovina and declare to the insurgents *viva voce* the will of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan that no opposition be made to the pacification of those provinces by Austria, and by his presence give force to the injunction.

One hundred Circassian soldiers came on board the transport, who are said to be on their way to Prevesa, and there are on board much military stores, also destined, it is said, for Prevesa; but when the vessel has left this port I cannot say to what port they may be taken.

There are also on board a great number of Pomaks, but they are without arms.

It is necessary, however, that your Excellency should be informed that many rifles and cartridges have been distributed to the Mahommedan population in Macedonia, on the frontiers of that province and Thessaly.

A battalion of soldiers has come here by rail, without arms, and on inquiry said they had left them at Mitrovitza, and were come here to receive other ones. People have wondered why it was necessary for them to have come here for arms, as these could have been sent to them in a few hours by rail.

Conscripts are still being sought and drilled, and military preparations do not appear to slacken. No doubt a large contingent has been sent to their homes, and many are wanted to fill their places, still the number of soldiers still being levied appears to be very considerable.

The Austrian Lloyd steamer has taken 705 Circassians from Catterina, and will return in twelve to fourteen days to take the remainder.

We have the Austrian man-of-war "Don Giovanni" in from Volo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 358.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 31, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Custom-house authorities here have received instructions from the Porte to levy an extra tax on tobacco; and the manufactories and shops, where tobacco is prepared and sold, have been summarily visited by the officers, and the quantity in stock has been noted, with the intention of placing a new "banderole" of a higher price on each bundle. No opposition to this domiciliary visit has been made by the Europeans who deal in tobacco, because the Constantinople papers have declared that the Porte has presented a "Note" to this effect to the Ambassadors, which has been accepted, and an understanding come to, that this extra tax should be laid on tobacco, salt, and spirits.

The large Turkish transport, mentioned in my last despatch as being about to leave for Prevesa, has taken 5,000 sacks of flour (250,000 okes) and much military stores on board and left for Prevesa. The Pomaks on board were landed here in the military hospital.

Commodore Manthorp Bey came into harbour on the 26th instant, and left on the 28th for Volo.

The anniversary of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan's accession, which has come round to-day, has been celebrated here by merely the firing of a salute, such as would be fired for any man-of-war, and not in any other manner, although the telegram the town received yesterday from Constantinople distinctly states it to be the intention of the Porte, at the capital, to celebrate the event.

Mr. Vice-Consul Suter has informed me officially of his intention to quit his post

on the 5th September on leave of absence, leaving Mr. Consul Blunt in charge of the archives of his Vice-Consulate.

The Ramazan Fast has begun, but everything is perfectly quiet, and likely to continue so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 358.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Prevesa, August* 31, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that a Turkish steamer with thirty Circassians, 3,000 sacks of flour, 3,000 cases of cartridges, a number of shells, and some clothing for the troops which were brought hither from Bosnia, arrived at this port yesterday from Constantinople, viâ Volo.

M. Kypriotis reports the return to Janina of Ibrahim Pasha with all the troops under his command.

About thirty Christians, who appear to have been accomplices of brigands, were arrested by his Excellency and brought to Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 358.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

[B.B.]
Sir, *Prevesa, August* 31, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of a telegram which appears to have been received in cypher by the Greek Consul at Janina.

The Greek Consul, in carrying out the instructions therein contained, seems to have drawn upon himself the displeasure of the Turkish authorities, for the Vali immediately protested against this mode of dealing, and sent a copy of his protest, as well as of the above telegram, to all the foreign Consuls residing at Janina.

M. Kypriotis has forwarded to this Office a copy of the above documents, as well as of the Vali's circular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 358.

M. Commoundouros to the Greek Consul at Janina.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) [B.B.] *Athens, August* 7, 1878.

THERE is no doubt that the decision of the Congress of Berlin will be carried out by the cession of the provinces. Consequently it will be your duty to prepare the Mussulmans, by assuring them that they will enjoy every security and prosperity under the Greek Government, and that they will hold the same posts and ranks as Greek citizens.

Inclosure 6 in No. 358.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, September* 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a report has reached this of the death of Field-Marshal Mehemet Ali Pasha at Prisrend, and of two of the telegraph clerks of Uskub, who were with him. They were murdered by the Albanian insurgents.

As soon as it was known here that the telegraph clerk in chief of Uskub had been killed, lots were drawn at the telegraph station here, and another man, also a Greek, on whom the lot fell, was sent up, and we now learn that he also has been killed.

On Wednesday, the 4th September, 4,800 men, infantry and cavalry, but principally infantry, arrived here from Constantinople, and have been ever since gradually going up by railway, and the following day 103 horses belonging to these men were landed, and have gone on.

Besides these, all the cavalry, infantry, and artillery we had here have left for the same destination.

But it seems so many military stores as have been sent from Constantinople are not wanted, because I saw to-day a great many loads of cartridges coming back from the railway station to town.

Two hundred Albanian soldiers, who had been sent back from the army in Bosnia to Salonica and then ordered to join the new Corps d'Armée at Kossova, have run away to their villages.

We have no man-of-war of any European Power in port. The Turkish transports which arrived this week have gone to Volo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 359.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1133.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the letter addressed by M. Leschine to the Rhodope Commission, announcing his withdrawal from further participation in its proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 359.

Colonel Leschine to Colonel Raab.

M. le Colonel, *Büiuk-Dereh, le 15 Août, 1878.*

EN me retirant de la Commission Européenne de Rhodope, j'ai déclaré dans la séance du 17 Août, qu'en voyant la Commission sortis des limites qui lui ont été tracées par les instructions, je ne pouvais plus prendre part à ses travaux.

Vous voudrez bien vous souvenir que M. Basily et moi, nous n'avons cessé de protester contre le mode de procéder adopté par la Commission. Nous avions cependant espéré que le Rapport final ne traiterait que des questions qui sont à la compétence de la Commission.

Tout au contraire, le Projet de Rapport qui nous a été lu par M. Challet montre clairement que la Commission veut, dans ses conclusions, s'arrêter tout spécialement aux allégations des réfugiés concernant les prétendues atrocités Russes.

En voyant d'un côté l'accueil chaleureux fait presque unanimement à ce Projet de Rapport, et de l'autre le jugement qui y est porté sur la conduite des troupes Russes, conduite au sujet de laquelle on entre dans les détails tout-à-fait étrangers au but de la Commission, j'ai jugé indispensable d'élucider la question, et de demander catégoriquement à mes collègues "si la conduite des troupes Russes pendant et après la guerre devait ou non être l'objet des recherches et des appréciations de la Commission."

M. Graziani a proposé l'amendement suivant:—"En tout que cette conduite se rattache au but humanitaire visé par les instructions données aux Commissaires par leurs Chefs respectifs, doit-elle être signalée."

Sur sept Commissaires cinq se sont prononcés affirmativement.

Ce vote de la majorité ne me laissait pas d'autre alternative que celle de me retirer de la Commission, et je n'ai pas hésité d'accomplir immédiatement ce devoir.

Veuillez, M. le Colonel, transmettre à MM. les Commissaires, et agréez, &c.
(Signé) LESCHINE.

No. 360.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1134.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Bourgas, Sulina, Kustendji, Adrianople, and Philippopolis, giving accounts of the state of things in Bulgaria under Russian administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 360.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, September 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I hear from Bulgarian sources of the enlistment in the Russo-Bulgarian army of Eastern Roumelia of a considerable number of volunteers, *e.g.*, from Kazan, 300; from Slimnia, 1,000; from Kirk-Kilissa, 300; as well as from other districts.

I am unable to state this information is exact, but I think that there can be no doubt that a considerable number of Bulgarians, not required by the conscription, has been taken as volunteers. As the Bulgarian peasant has an innate dislike to military service, which not only takes him away from his fields and his sheep, but also involves a considerable amount of physical discipline, it appears to me that the Russian recruiting-sergeant is perhaps the only person who could give the explanation of the military ardour so suddenly developed amongst the Bulgarian agricultural mind.

The conscripts here were told that they would be drilled during four months, and then sent back to their homes. An old Bulgarian peasant woman asked me the other day why her two sons should be sent across the Balkans into the Vilayet of the Danube; and there seems to be a general idea that such is the destination of the new levies; however, against this widely-spread hallucination there is the official declaration of the Russo-Bulgarian authorities.

Many Rayahs of the Greek race were included amongst the conscripts from the Caza of Bourgas, but most of those who were able to prove their non-Slavonic origin were sent back from Slimnia to their homes. This latter circumstance has caused some little astonishment amongst the European colony here, who ask themselves whether, if Russia be drilling at her own expense, and for the benefit of the Sultan, the territorial militia of the future, she should confine her instructions to Bulgarians, or should initiate to the career of arms all the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia—Mussulmans, Greeks, Bulgarians, Gipsies, &c.; and, if she be not working for the Turkish Government, by what right she chooses to organize an armed force of which no mention is made in the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 360.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, September 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency some account of the reception accorded to the fourteen families of Turkish returned refugees whose departure for their old homes I have already mentioned in my despatch of the 24th August.

Of these, thirteen families, or about forty persons, belonged to the village of Yendjikeui, in the Caza of Karnabad. On their arrival there they were shown quarters for the night, but a few hours afterwards they were attacked by a band of Bulgarians from Coumarova, a village about two miles distant, and compelled to fly by night into the neighbouring Karnabad-Aidos-Slumla Balkan.

I am only able to assert, with positive certainty, that they were stripped of everything they possessed which was thought worth plundering, and I cannot, there-

fore, affirm (notwithstanding apparently well-founded reports which I hear) of worse outrages committed upon them.

The fourteenth family consisted of a widow named Hurip Aglounin Baldizzi Ayesha, whose husband had died at Constantinople, and for whom her relatives had sent to Bourgas an ox-waggon to bring her and her child of 7 years old to her native village, Kiupekli, in the Caza of Aidos. She had to stop the first night at Kadikeui (Caza of Aidos), about 9 miles from her home. A room was given to her by the Mayor (Moukhtar) of the village. A few hours afterwards it was broken into by nine men of the same village, who robbed her of everything she had of value, and then all of them violated her.

I should mention that the peasants (Bulgarians) of Kadikeui have tried to exempt themselves from the new "duty" which they have incurred of furnishing soldiers to Russia by stating that, having remained faithful to the Œcumenical Patriarch of Constantinople at and since the time of the Bulgarian schism, they are entitled to be classed as Greeks, and therefore exempt from military service. It would appear, however, that they choose to exert their "privileges" as Bulgarians by race in robbing and outraging unprotected Mussulmans.

From Slimnia I hear that a certain portion of the returning Turkish refugees—those who came with papers from San Stefano—are comparatively well treated, whilst others, not furnished with such recommendations, are subjected to every species of outrage. I regret that owing to the present difficulty of communication for or with every non-Bulgarian, I am unable to vouch for the accuracy of the information regarding Slimnia as I do for the occurrences of Yendjikeui and Kadikeui. As for myself, I am convinced that no Mussulman refugees should be sent back to their old homes until some other *régime* than the present—which may be called that of "orders, counter-orders, and disorder"—shall be established.

I have been more than ten years in this country, and have served eight years as Vice-Consul. I was always one of the first to make known to Her Majesty's Embassy such abuses as existed in the Turkish Provincial Government, and which were by no means few in number, but I must say that after my experience of some—the worst, because the most difficult—phases of the Turkish rule here, I am not a little surprised that under the nominal administration of a great European Power, and after six months of undisputed (at least in my district) rule, I can only say the last state of the Sandjak of Slimnia is ten times worse than the first.

In these parts, the responsability which will be incurred, though later, by the Russians is that of "Qui facit per alium, facit per se," and as their cats'-paws, the Bulgarians, profit by the license freely accorded to them, this responsibility ought at least to be heavily felt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 360.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Consul R. Reade.

Sulina, August 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a despatch I have received from the Russian Governor of the Province of Toultcha informing me that he had been instructed to enter into official relations with the Consular Corps.

I have to report to you as follows:—

The Russians are dismounting the guns from their batteries, and it is reported that the Roumanian authorities will be here in twenty days' time.

The number of Russian troops stationed here at present is about 900 men belonging to the reserve force under the command of a Lieutenant-Colonel. There is also one Russian gun-boat stationed here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) O. STOKES.

Inclosure 4 in No. 360.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Consul R. Reade.

Sir, *Kustendji, August* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received a despatch dated 5th instant, from Mr. Berossercovetz, Governor of the Province of Tultchu, informing me that he has been ordered by the Imperial Commissioner to enter into official relations with me, and asking for a list of British subjects resident in my district.

I have acknowledged receipt of letter and sent list of British subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. F. SANKEY.

P.S.—The 12th Army Corps under General Varmowsky is expected here, whether for embarkation or otherwise I cannot yet find out.

F. F. S.

Inclosure 5 in No. 360.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, September* 3, 1878.

WITH reference to Mr. Acting Vice-Consul F. Calvert's despatch to your Excellency of the 31st ultimo, reporting further details regarding the trial of Slimbau and Arif Agha, of Philippopolis (which despatch was received by me to-day under flying seal, and is forwarded with the present), I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I learn from Mr. Buckland, correspondent of the "Daily News," who has just arrived from Philippopolis, that execution of the sentence passed upon the condemned men has been deferred pending the hearing of new witnesses, whose testimony is understood to be of a favourable character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 360.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, September* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Prince Doudoukoff-Korsakoff returned my official visit (made three weeks ago) the day before yesterday.

His Excellency spoke to me chiefly on indifferent matters; but he informed me that the Bulgarians of the district of Adrianople, dreading the return of the Turks, are all preparing to migrate to Philippopolis as soon as the Russians withdraw from Adrianople.

I remarked that I supposed that when the Russians evacuated Eastern Roumelia the Bulgarians of this province, actuated by similar fears, would follow the Russian troops over the Balkans.

His Excellency said, "Ah! cela ferait votre affaire, à vous autres Anglais; mais ça n'aura pas lieu. Les Turcs ont déjà commencé à massacrer des Bulgares à Dédéotica. Ils y en ont tué trente l'autre jour. Mais nous serons ici pour les empêcher de massacrer les Bulgares de ces régions."

He expressed the opinion that the International Commission will not be able to come to an agreement amongst themselves.

He informed me that the Bulgarians of this sandjak and of Slimnia are preparing to make a further collective protest against the replacement of their country under Turkish rule.

I learn that an attempt has been made to induce the Roman Catholic Bulgarians to join in this movement, but that they have declined to have anything to do with it.

Prince Doudoukoff assured me that the Russian Government has no intention of attacking the Rhodope Pomaks; but he said that the International Commission

will find it difficult to persuade them to give up the districts (occupied by them) which are included in Eastern Roumelia.

He made light of the alleged rising of Bulgarians in Macedonia.

I have learnt to-day, however, from a tolerably good source, that 70,000 rifles, of which 15,000 Martini-Peabody's captured from the Turks during the war, were about a fortnight ago sent from Widdin to Köstendil, whence, my informant affirms, they are to be sent into Macedonia, for distribution among the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 360.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 31, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that disorders of a serious character are alleged to have arisen in the mountainous regions lying between the towns of Köstendil, Ishtil, and Serres.

The Rev. Mr. Clarke, of Samakow, writes to me, under date of the 8th instant, that "the Bulgarians in the Raslog plain (in Bansko, &c.) have been trying to cause disturbances, so as to provoke retaliation, in hope that the Russians would come and take possession. The Turks of the place are very wise and guarded, and have avoided giving any such pretext."

Elsewhere in his letter Mr. Clarke says:—"I think I have written you of the outrages of the Bulgarians upon the Turks in Djumaa, when the latter fled from that place."*

Mr. Locke, another of the American missionaries, informs me that the Russians have lately withdrawn from Djumaa, in the Raslog district,† and adds that the Bulgarians are trying to get up an insurrection, not only in that district, but also further in the interior of Macedonia. The revolutionary agents appear to be chiefly disbanded soldiers of the "Légion," who have lately established themselves in the hills, and live by robbery.

They have lately, Mr. Locke adds, been bringing great quantities of ammunition in Samakow, and conveying it over the border.

To-day it is reported here from other sources that a sanguinary engagement has been fought between Turks and insurgent Bulgarians in the hilly districts to the south of Samakow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 360.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 31, 1878.

Sir,

SOME further details of the trial of Hadji Arif and Shaban Aghas, which I have learnt from different trustworthy sources, added to the circumstances which I have already reported to your Excellency in connection with the trial, compel me to qualify it as a mockery of justice.

It will be sufficient for me to state that two of the witnesses, M. Joachim Grosoff and Dr. Vlados, who had been examined in the preliminary interrogation, were not called to repeat their evidence at the public trial. Their depositions were favourable to the accused.

All that can be said to have been proved against either of the prisoners was that persons in the service of Arif Agha and the sons of both Arif Agha and Shaban Agha took part in the attacks on Bulgarian villages in 1876 and last year. The only way in which the guilt of complicity in the massacres could have been fixed upon the accused, would have been to have confronted them with the actual perpetrators of those massacres, and to have taken down the statements of the latter as to whether they

* No letter containing the information referred to has ever reached me.
† Djumaa being outside the limits of Bulgaria.

had, or not, acted by the orders of the Aghas. But this was not, and indeed could not be, done, the perpetrators of the massacres not having returned to Philippopolis.

Hadji Shaban Agha's eldest son, who took part in the expedition against the Bulgarians, was a notorious evil-doer, and had been the cause of much affliction to his father, who for years past used openly to deplore the young man's conduct.

During the trial on the 29th instant, much unbecoming behaviour among the spectators was tolerated in Court. The fez of Hadji Shaban's second son, who was present, was twice snatched from his head, and only recovered by the resolute interference of Herr Dietz, the correspondent of the "Politische Correspondenz," who sat by his side. The offender, in the first instance, was a Bulgarian soldier; the second time, the young Turk's fez was snatched off by a Bulgarian officer attached to Prince Dondoukoff's suite.

The leading Bulgarians here pretend to be grieved at Shaban Agha's condemnation. In some cases, I believe, the feeling is genuine; but they will not give a practical proof of their sympathy by getting up, as I have suggested to some of them, a petition to the Russian authorities for a remission of his sentence.

On their way back to prison, after the conclusion of the trial, the unfortunate Aghas were exposed to the jeers of a crowd of Bulgarians who followed them.

Colonel Cousten, the President of the Tribunal, has earned for himself an evil reputation here by his brutal treatment of the master and mistress of the house in which he has quartered himself. During the address to the Court of the lawyer defending the prisoners, he was seen to display impatience, and to endeavour by signs to induce the lawyer to cut short his speech.

It was evident to every impartial spectator that the fate of the prisoners had been decided upon before the Court assembled. In spite of this, the condemnation of Hadji Shaban Agha, for whom the evidence of the majority of the witnesses was favourable, occasioned general surprise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 360.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, September 3, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to the steps reported to have been taken by the Russian military authorities for levying a conscription among the Bulgarian population on this side of the border line of Eastern Roumelia, as mentioned in my despatch to your Excellency of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to state that although I have not been able to obtain precise information as to those steps having been applied to the Caza of Kirk-Kilissa, I am informed on very good authority that orders were sent to levy conscripts for the Bulgarian national army, at any rate from the districts of Tchirmen and Lulé Bourgas. The Bulgars in both districts, it is added, protested against the orders, and refused to abide by them, on the very reasonable plea that Tchirmen and Lulé Bourgas are not comprised within the limits either of Bulgaria or Eastern Roumelia, as defined by the Treaty of Berlin. The Russian authorities do not appear to have persisted in their attempt to impose this measure, and it has, therefore, remained a dead letter.

The movement for enrolling volunteers from among the non-Bulgarian population has, at least on this side of Eastern Roumelia, also proved a complete failure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 10 in No. 360.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Sir A. H. Layard.

Kustendji, September 7, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to report to your Excellency that after three weeks' hard work the Russians had dismounted all the guns from the batteries and packed them in the jetty ready for putting on board steamers which were expected for the purpose. They had also removed to the same place the platform timbers and an immense amount of ammunition. A regiment of Guards and a division of infantry were on the march

from Bazardjik to Toultcha, and some had already crossed to Ismail. Those that had crossed have been recalled, and the march of the rest countermanded. And they are now re-arming the battery and carrying back the ammunition. All that I can learn about this hurried movement is that it is in consequence of a telegraphic order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. F. SANKEY.

No. 361.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1135.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Adrianople and Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Philippopolis and Dedeagatch, reporting that they have entered on official relations with the Russian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 361.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, September 9, 1878.*

CONFORMABLY to your Excellency's instruction of the 5th ultimo, I notified to General Lipinsky, the Russian Governor of Adrianople, that I was authorized to enter into official relations with him; and I communicated your Excellency's authorization in the same sense to the Vice-Consuls in my district.

My colleagues here, with the exception of the Austrian Consul, had received similar instructions from their respective Embassies and Legations previous to my departure for Constantinople on the 15th ultimo; but, presumably on account of the exception mentioned, no day has been fixed by General Lipinsky up to that date, for the reception of the Consular Body. It took place, however, during my absence, in a somewhat informal fashion, the Governor having merely notified in a Circular that, being prevented by continual indisposition from going to the Government conak, he would receive the Consuls on official business on Thursdays and Saturdays every week at his own house. Taking, therefore, the earliest available opportunity after my return here I called upon his Excellency on Thursday, the 29th ultimo, and met with a very civil reception.

Although I had reason to know that General Lipinsky, who was really in weak health, intended returning my call on the Sunday following, it was only yesterday that he did so.

I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency copies of the despatches which I have received from Vice-Consuls F. Calvert, of Philippopolis, and Willshire, of Dedeagatch, relative to the opening of official relations by them with the Russian authorities.

Your Excellency will observe that the former gentleman reports that although the Governor of Philippopolis returned his official visit the Imperial Commissioner did not do so. In a later communication Mr. Calvert informs me that Prince Dönkoukoff-Korsakoff has since called on all the members of the Consular Corps at Philippopolis except himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 361.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, August 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 9th instant, informing me that Her Majesty's Ambassador has authorized you to enter into official relations with the Russian authorities, and that you have been charged to instruct the Vice-Consuls in the Adrianople district in the same sense; and I have, at the same time, the honour to report to you that on the receipt of your despatch above mentioned, I called officially upon the new Russian Governor of this town, General Baron Hübsch-Grossthal, and upon Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, the Russian Imperial Commissioner for Bulgaria, and that the former official returned my call upon the following day, but that Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, the Russian Commissioner, did not return my official visit.

His Excellency left for San Stefano yesterday evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 361.

Vice-Consul Willshire to Acting Consul Calvert.

Sir, *Dedeagatch, August 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 9th instant, informing me that according to his Excellency the Ambassador's instructions you had been authorized to enter into official relations with the Russian authorities of your place, and to instruct the Vice-Consuls in your district to do the same.

On the 14th instant Count Stenbock, the Russian Governor of this town, addressed me a despatch informing me that he had also received instructions to enter into official relations with me, and begged me to send him a list of the British subjects residing here, I duly answered his despatch and sent him the list he asked for.

I am happy to state that this town and its neighbourhood are enjoying perfect tranquillity; Mussulmans and Christians have been able to attend to their daily work without being molested.

It is reported this morning that at Ipsala some Turks having murdered two Bulgarians, the Russian troops there set fire to the place and burnt it down. This report needs confirmation, which as yet I have been unable to obtain. Probably Mr. Vice-Consul Rossy will inform you if the case is true.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEONARD WM. WILLSHIRE.

No. 362.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 1136.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September 19, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1055 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a Vizirial letter has been sent to Mr. Matheosian, the Vekil of the Protestant community in Turkey, ordering the authorities to recognize officially the Protestant community at Volo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 363.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 160. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 12, 1878.

FOR some time the Roumanian Government has had under consideration the answer which they were to give to the communication received by them from the German Foreign Office, bringing to their official notice the Treaty of Berlin.

There was considerable hesitation as to the nature of that reply, as the most influential members of the Government do not conceal their desire to make it manifest that the retrocession of Bessarabia is only submitted to by them under compulsion.

The correspondence between them and Russia, which I had the honour to report to your Lordship, appears to have settled that point.

It having been determined to yield without consulting the Chambers as regards Bessarabia should Russia insist, this Government decided to call the Legislature together for the purpose of fulfilling the other obligations imposed upon them by the Treaty, and have addressed a Circular conveying to the Powers which signed that Congress Treaty renewed assurances of their intention to carry out the obligations imposed on them by its stipulations.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of that Circular, but I am not in possession of the inclosures which accompanied it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 363.

Circular addressed by the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Representatives abroad.

Bucarest.

Monsieur,

MES précédents offices ont porté à votre connaissance que conformément à une résolution du Congrès, le Gouvernement Roumain a reçu communication du Traité de Berlin, devenu définitif par suite de l'échange des ratifications.

Il s'est empressé d'accuser réception de cette communication par les voies d'usage au Cabinet duquel elle émanait.

Tout récemment, ainsi que vous pourrez le relever de la lecture des pièces ci-annexées en copie, M. le Représentant de Russie à Bucharest vient au nom de son Gouvernement de saisir ce Département d'une demande tendant à accélérer la prise de possession de la Bessarabie par les autorités Russes.

Le Gouvernement Roumain, en présence des hautes décisions des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à l'égard de la Roumanie, et devant l'insistance du Cabinet Impérial pour l'exécution immédiate des stipulations de ce Traité, s'est vu dans l'obligation de s'occuper du transfert de la Bessarabie Roumaine à la Russie, et a pris des mesures à cet effet. En conséquence, il a dû répondre à M. le Représentant de Russie qu'il tient à la disposition des autorités Impériales le territoire dont l'abandon est imposé à la Roumanie par la volonté collective de l'Europe et par la force majeure des circonstances.

Ainsi, quelque douloureuses que soient pour la Roumanie quelques-unes des conditions du Traité de Berlin et bien que, à considérer l'ensemble de ces conditions, l'attente de la nation Roumaine, qui avait manifesté ses droits et ses vœux soit par les votes de ses Corps Législatifs, soit par les actes et les paroles de ses Délégués au Congrès, n'ait pas été remplie, le Gouvernement Roumain ne peut que se conformer aux résolutions suprêmes de l'Europe, et est-il décidé à les exécuter dans un esprit d'entière loyauté.

Il a le ferme espoir que la diligence de la Roumanie, et ses efforts pour reprendre l'essor de son développement selon la situation matérielle et morale qui lui est assignée par le Traité de Berlin, seront aux yeux de l'Europe un témoignage et une garantie de plus que l'Etat Roumain sera dans l'avenir comme il était dans le passé, un élément d'ordre et de civilisation en sa qualité d'intermédiaire entre l'Occident et l'Orient, et qu'il mérite ainsi la confiance des Grandes Puissances.

C'est dans le but de se créer un nouveau titre à leur sollicitude et à leur bienveillance, auxquelles il n'a jamais cessé de faire et fait encore appel, que le Gouvernement Roumain procède dès à présent à l'exécution réelle du Traité de Berlin, et a pris

toutes ses dispositions pour la convocation et la réunion des Corps Législatifs au ½ Septembre prochain.

Je vous autorise, Monsieur, à donner lecture et à laisser copie de la présente note et de ses annexes à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de

Veuillez, &c.

No. 364.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 162. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 14, 1878.

SOME sensation has been produced here by reports, coming from Moldavia, that Russian staff officers have been making plans and surveys between Pentra—an important elevated strategical position there—and the frontier of Hungary, in the valley of the Meros, and it is believed here that, under certain circumstances, Russia would be disposed to quarter troops in that district as a demonstration against Austria.

I am not disposed to attach any importance to these and similar reports: Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Jassy has, I believe, informed your Lordship that the Russians are rapidly evacuating Moldavia, and the making of plans and surveys of all neighbouring military roads and positions enters largely nowadays as part of the duties of staff officers employed in foreign parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 365.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 785.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the "St. Petersburgh Velomist" of yesterday states, on the authority of the "Nicolaieff Gazette," that General Arkas, Commander of the Black Sea fleet, has promulgated an order in respect to the disarmament of the Black Sea ports, and the removal of torpedo obstructions placed therein. The order directs the Commanders of the defensive squadrons to lower their pennants, and the Commanders of the defences of Ochakoff, Odessa, Sevastopol, and Kertch are instructed to take immediate steps towards removing the officers and crews posted on signal and reconnoitring stations, as likewise from the coast and floating mortar batteries: the floating mortar batteries at Ochakoff are to be returned to Nicolaieff, where they are to be disarmed and drawn up on shore; those at Kertch are to be likewise disarmed. The vessels hired from the Russian Steam Navigation Company are to be disarmed without delay and returned to the Company in the same condition in which they were received. In regard to the armed vessels of the defensive squadron at present forming part of the Lower Danube flotilla, special orders will, it is said, be issued on the receipt of instructions from the Commander-in-chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 366.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 413. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, September* 14, 1878.

AS I had the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph on the 11th instant, the Austro-Hungarian Government proposed to this Government that, owing to the unsettled state of the Montenegrin frontier, the meeting of the Commission for the delimitation of the frontier should be postponed until some sort of order be re-established

in those districts. The Italian Government at once agreed to this proposal. Since then the Russian Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed by his Government to notify to the Italian Cabinet that the Russian Government are desirous that the Commissioners should proceed with their task, and that the Russian Delegate was on the spot awaiting the arrival of his colleagues.

Count Maffei has since been informed by Count Menabrea that your Lordship has likewise agreed to a postponement of the meeting of the Commission in question. The Italian Government will therefore be guided in this matter by the course which Her Majesty's Government may think fit to pursue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 367.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 414. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, September 16, 1878.*

COUNT MAFFEI informed me that the Greek Chargé d'Affaires had communicated to the Italian Government the Circular note addressed by his Government to the Signatory Powers relative to the non-observance by the Porte of the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin. Count Maffei stated that the Italian Government had on receipt of the document in question addressed a Circular to its Representatives, informing them that they are of opinion that prompt and united action should be taken in this matter with a view to avoiding further complications.

In the course of conversation with Count Maffei I gathered that Count Corti desires to see this question settled, perhaps not only on account of the prominent part which his Excellency took in its discussion at the Congress, but also as having been the only point on which the press agreed in approving his Excellency's proceedings at Berlin.

Beyond these motives I have reason to believe that the Italian Government have no desire to press the matter unnecessarily, the more so as they are confident that if Greece be rash enough to enforce her claim she would inevitably meet with serious disasters; whilst, on the other hand, it is equally probable that on any attempt at a friendly or forced occupation of the districts she claims, especially in Albania, Greece will meet with a stubborn resistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 368.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 415. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, September 16, 1878.*

COUNT MAFFEI read to me confidentially a telegram addressed to the Italian Government by their Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, in which he states that M. de Bülow had informed him that, owing to the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to join in the proposed identic note pressing upon Turkey to observe the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, the German Government had determined not to pursue the question further, the more so as Prince Bismarck felt confident that ere long the Turkish Government would give the Powers additional cause for complaint, and that the Porte, by its neglect and procrastination, would render such a remonstrance absolutely necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 369.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 416. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, September 16, 1878.*

I THINK it my duty to inform your Lordship that I have lately noticed a manifest desire on the part of the Italian Government to act of a common accord with Her Majesty's Government in all matters connected with Turkey. I shall not venture to inquire into or examine the motives which may have prompted this very friendly disposition of the Italian Government towards that of Her Majesty, but the fact is too apparent. Indeed, both Count Corti and Count Maffei have on every occasion expressed the sincere wish of the Italian Cabinet to be guided, so far as lay in their power, by the opinion and intentions of your Lordship, and invariably show themselves disposed to support the views of Her Majesty's Government in preference to those of the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 370.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 730.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 18, 1878.*

M. WADDINGTON informed me yesterday that he had received the Circular of the Greek Government requesting the mediation of the Powers, in accordance with Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

He said that he was certainly of opinion that satisfaction should be given to Greece in this matter, the exact details being made the subject of examination.

In the course of our conversation I alluded to M. Fournier's alleged language at Constantinople and Athens with regard to the visit of the French squadron to Greece, mentioned in Lord Lyons' despatch No. 650 of the 17th ultimo, and in your Lordship's despatch No. 548 of the 29th ultimo, and I took an opportunity of quoting to his Excellency the last paragraph but one of your despatch.

I stated that although it was undoubtedly true that before the Congress Her Majesty's Government intimated to the Porte that naval action against Greece could not then be permitted, they have never intimated any decision to maintain such a prohibition for the future.

M. Waddington held to me very similar language to that recorded in your Lordship's despatch No. 586, Confidential, of the 10th instant, as to the action of France in case the Piræus were to be bombarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 371.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 18, 1878.*

I SAW Prince Tseretelev, Russian Commissioner, to-day. He suggests that language of Treaty prevents Turkey from having a Commissioner. He wants a preliminary meeting of the other Commissioners at Doyen's to discuss this point. This I declined. Frenchman and I are firmly in favour of Turkish Commissioner, and I do not suppose question will be pressed. Russians evidently intend raising difficulties.

No. 372.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 19, 1878.*

ALL are here except Russian Commissioner, who, Russian Ambassador says, will arrive at once.

No. 374.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 19, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

IN view of the probability that the Eastern Roumelian Commission will be much hampered in its action by the resistance of the Russians, I think it most important that the Porte should nominate the Governor of that province without delay. If Rustem Pasha be named now, there is a better hope of his name being accepted by the Powers, than there will be later on.

No. 375.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1128. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1878.*

THERE seems reason to apprehend that the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia will be much hampered in its action by obstruction and resistance on the part of the Russian Government and authorities. I have telegraphed to your Excellency to express my opinion that, under these circumstances, it is very important that the Porte should proceed without delay to nominate the Governor of that province.

If Rustem Pasha be named at once, there will be a better prospect of the choice being accepted by the Powers than if the selection were delayed till a later period.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 376.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 651. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 13, 1878.*

COUNT Andrassy called upon me this morning to express his earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government would consent to join in the identic note to the Porte proposed by Prince Bismarck.

All the information that reached him led him to suspect that the Russian Government were anxious to be able to find a pretext for evading the execution of their own obligations under the Treaty of Berlin by alleging that those of the Porte were not carried out, and if the Powers were now to put this pressure upon Turkey, they would be able, if necessary, authoritatively to call upon Russia to fulfil her engagements.

When the proposal was made by Prince Bismarck, the Russian Government were ready to adhere to it, but Batoum having since been given up to them, Count Andrassy did not feel sure of their still being equally well disposed to it, but in any case he attached great importance to the fact of the suggestion having come from the German Government, and a suspicion that Prince Bismarck might have been influenced by a wish to act in a manner agreeable to Russia, or favourable to her wishes, did not appear to cross his Excellency's mind.

He believed that the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to take part in this

remonstrance would encourage the Porte in its apparent determination to do nothing, and would thus lead to the prolongation of the Russian occupation in Turkey.

I had already communicated to his Excellency, through Baron Orczy, your Lordship's telegram of the 10th instant, but I again read it to him, and asked what were the particular points upon which he considered the Porte to have so far evaded its obligations under the Treaty as to call for a treatment which your Lordship justly designated as severe.

He denied the justice of the expression, observing that it was for the interest of Turkey herself that the Powers should show that they expected the whole Treaty to be observed, and that there should be no excuse for the evasion of the portions of it which were unfavourable to her. Remonstrance was called for by the conduct of the Porte in not evacuating the territories assigned to Servia and Montenegro, in not acceding to a rectification of the Greek frontier, and in taking no measures to prevent Albania from setting itself up in open defiance of the decisions of the European Powers.

I said that, as regards the two last points, although the conduct of the Porte might have been unwise and blameable, and therefore open to remonstrance, I could not perceive how it could be regarded as an evasion of any direct provision of the Treaty, which, as respects the Greek frontier, only expressed the hope that an understanding would be come to between the two Governments, failing which the Powers reserved the right of offering them their mediation.

The Porte could not, I said, of course be allowed to evade the abandonment of the territories to be annexed to Servia and Montenegro, but the excitement prevailing in the neighbouring provinces must be taken into account, and it must, at the same time, be admitted that the Russians had not shown themselves more expeditious in taking steps for bringing their forces in Turkey within the limits prescribed by the Treaty, but I assured Count Andrassy that your Lordship had been unremitting in urging upon the Sultan's Government the prompt fulfilment of all their obligations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 377.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 653. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 13, 1878.*

ALTHOUGH Count Andrassy declares himself satisfied that Count Schouvaloff came here, as he asserts, to see a sick brother, and not upon any political mission, he has not received a favourable impression from the general tone of the Count's language, which he thought indicated a doubt whether the Russian Government would reduce their army to the specified force as long as the state of anarchy prevailing in Albania rendered it doubtful whether the Porte would evacuate the territories beyond the frontiers assigned to Servia and Montenegro. The effect produced on Count Andrassy by the tone of this remark was increased when he received a telegram from Count Zichy, dated yesterday, stating that General Todleben was reported to have told several different persons that the shipping of the Russian troops for Odessa, and his own departure, were to be deferred, and that he might very soon be in a position of difficulty by having to buy fresh horses in the place of those that had been disposed of.

Count Schouvaloff further intimated to Count Andrassy that the best thing for the Austro-Hungarian Government now to do was to proceed to the open annexation of Bosnia, which would be at once simpler and more straightforward than the occupation and administration of a province nominally under the sovereignty of the Sultan: but he met with no encouraging response to this suggestion, Count Andrassy having answered him rather curtly that he had excellent reasons for abiding strictly and to the letter by the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 378.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 654.)

My Lord, *Vienna, September 13, 1878.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of the 10th instant, observing that the French Chargé d'Affaires must have made some mistake respecting the proposition for an identic note to the Porte pressing for the observance of the Treaty of Berlin, but I feel bound to state that the mistake was probably my own.

When M. de Bourgoing, whom I met accidentally in the street, spoke to me on the subject, I was ignorant of the proposal of the German Government, though it was mentioned in the newspapers the following day, and inferring from his language that his Government were favourable to it, I understood him to have been instructed to invite Count Andrassy's adhesion to the measure, while he may only have meant that he was to ascertain his Excellency's views upon it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 379.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 655.)

My Lord, *Vienna, September 13, 1878.*

AMONGST the various causes for the anxiety which Count Andrassy feels respecting the maintenance or establishment of tranquillity in the Turkish provinces, he mentioned a project reported to be entertained by the Russian Government for getting the Montenegrin Senator Petrovich elected Prince of Bulgaria. He is, Count Andrassy states, of a thoroughly warlike disposition, and if the Russians were to get him installed as Prince of Bulgaria, their object would, of course, be to insure an understanding between that Principality and Montenegro in pursuing a concerted policy of Slav extension.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 380.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 656.)

My Lord, *Vienna, September 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatches which have been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 380.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Doboj, September 7, 1878.*

NON-OFFICIALLY I presented myself to Field-Marshal Lieutenant-General Szapary, and through his indulgence have visited some of the most interesting military posts in the neighbourhood; but I need not write that my position would have been more satisfactory, and my information more complete, were I in a position to appear in uniform. I am, so to say, trading on my personal popularity with officers of the Austrian army, and each individual who assists me does so at his own risk. I am in a false position, and the Austrians run a risk to prevent its being also one of pain.

Before leaving Vienna I explained at the War Office that I should await authority to act in a military capacity at the head-quarters of Field-Marshal Lieutenant-General

Remberg in Brod. I lost five important days, and missed witnessing the recent operations of the 3rd Army Corps, and why? because Count Andrassy grants leave to the English Government to have a representant present with the army of occupation, but abstains from making this leave of practical use. General Remberg gave me a pass for five days: I am now obliged to ask him to prolong the period, to avoid returning whence I came.

As it happens, Brod is a more interesting centre than Serajevo, and it is more than probable that the army head-quarters will shortly move to Brod, so that Philippovits may take immediate command of the two corps destined to act, about the 15th of the month, against the insurgents centred on Dol Tuzla.

In the Serajevo district there is at the moment no disturbance. The same may be said of the country on the left bank of the Bosna River. A column marched from this on the 4th to Tesanji, and disarmed the inhabitants, without meeting with resistance.

I have reported that Szapary had orders to obtain room, by pushing the insurgents back from the immediate vicinity of the Bosna River, and therefore from the main line of communications from Brod to Serajevo. I reported by telegram the result of the fight on the 4th September, but the success was less complete than at first imagined. Men were wounded by rifle-shots on the highway between Doboj and Maglaj, and Szapary again assumed the offensive on the 8th September. Five positions (tops of hills) were taken at the point of the bayonet. Two officers were killed, and the casualties were between 400 and 500. On the 6th (yesterday) I arrived in time to witness the return of a column intended to attack, but the insurgents had fallen back to Gracanica. I have good reason to suppose that they have not all passed from the left to the right bank of the River Spreca. I should estimate the rebel strength at 9,000 or 10,000, from the country they have covered in respectable force. I do not think there can be less, and it is doubtful whether they have more than three serviceable guns.

The Austrians very rightly do not wish to disperse these over the country; therefore Szapary will not pursue till a combined movement is executed.

In this camp is a portion of the artillery from Serajevo. They inform me that fire was opened from 52 guns, of which 32 were field guns, the rest mountain. The day the capital of Bosnia was taken fire was opened at 5 A.M. and ceased at 2 P.M.

I have had also interesting conversations with men who took part in the first advance of Szapary on Dol Tuzla.

The force was two regiments strong, less some companies on baggage guard, say nineteen companies, when Dol Tuzla was partially occupied (three batteries). The troops give their General great credit as a strategist, and say that a feint on Gradacac alone enabled the guns and train to escape to Doboj.

I quite discredit the insubordination story. On the left bank of the river, where the Austrians made a final stand, hills covered with thick brushwood, in a double chain, the last or nearest to river being about half the height of the other, and Szapary has fought in the bush ever since. The troops were quite new at the work, and could gain no advantage before the arrival of superior numbers.

No prisoners have been taken during the recent engagements, nor will any be taken.

The Bosniacs behead dead Austrians, and cut the throats of wounded. I have invited General Szapary to give me an opportunity of bearing witness to this statement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 380.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Brod, September 9, 1878.*

FROM the camp of Field-Marshal General Szapary, at Doboj, I had the honour of sending you a letter, dated the 7th of September. I had received a "pass" from the Vice-Commander-in-chief, Field-Marshal General Remberg, at this station, on condition that I would return if directed to do so. I communicated to General Remberg your Excellency's desire that I should pass on to head-quarters, Serajevo, but because of

the fate of the Italian Consul (?) General Remberg resolved to stand by the letter of his instructions, which must be that no military officer is to penetrate Bosnia.

Had I been unknown here my chance of reaching Serajevo would have been greater, but a Military Attaché cannot act under false pretences; and, moreover, must have some regard for the dignity of his office. I therefore telegraphed yesterday as follows:—

"Returned from Doboj. Military bar my further progress. Death of Italian Consul nominal cause. I await instructions; my position here no longer bearable."

Your Excellency will quite understand the unpleasant nature of my position. I came here to act as an Attaché to the army of Austrians in Bosnia, and my authority was to follow. Ten days have passed, and I am without authority. I cannot help regarding my own case as ridiculous, and therefore cannot expect others to take a more charitable view of the situation.

Three hundred prisoners taken by Szapary before the recent bush fights have arrived here. All officers assure me that no more prisoners will be taken, but I cannot believe for a moment that wholesale slaughter will be permitted: 600 wounded Bosnians are known to be in the villages round the heights of Doboj. One village was burnt by order because it harboured insurgents, but Szapary made the troops take back to the smouldering remnant a quantity of fowl, as the law is that no article is to be taken by force, but all must be paid for. The Austrians are not by any means a cruel lot—I do not use the word race, as they are of many races,—but they have undoubtedly seen the "heads" of their comrades in positions from which the insurgents have been driven. On the 5th, at Doboj, the head of a wounded officer was cut off within sight of some troops, and instances of barbarous mutilation have been sufficiently numerous to create a feeling amongst the troops which is more easily kindled than extinguished. I fear the troops out of sight of their leaders will not readily grant quarter.

I am told that a deputation of insurgents has asked for the terms on which they may surrender, and that the answer given them was a copy of Philippovit's Proclamation, that every Bosnian bearing arms after a given date would be shot. I am unable to vouch for the truth of this report.

The news in general is not unsatisfactory. There are still some insurgents near Bangaluka, but such has been the case for the past two years.

It may be calculated that insurgents in numbers only exist in the Dol Tuzla Sworuik districts, and at Novi-Bazar, where they will not be interfered with this season.

As far as I can judge as yet, the Austrians are encountering the spirit of unrule which has triumphed under the Turks, and which gained a great impulse at the transition period, when the Turks suddenly allowed the Austrian occupation in principle.

Then it seems that the rich Beys fear that they may hereafter be dispossessed of their lands, and they indulged a slight hope that the Hungarians would prevent the Emperor from waging an actual war.

There is one matter of grave suspicion against the Porte as a party to the opposition which will be heard of hereafter.

In every small village even cases of cartridges are found, and in great quantity. Of these, two-thirds are described as Schneider ammunition, in English cases, holding 50's and 100's. The quantity of ammunition at the disposal of the insurgents seems to have no limit. One can only explain this in one way favourable to the Turkish Government, viz., that the soldiers handed the Government stores to the people.

The columns sent out to disarm towns on the left bank of the Bosna river met with no obstruction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 380.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Brod, September 11, 1878.

Sir,

I AM in receipt of your telegram advising me that "orders will be issued to facilitate my progress." These orders have now reached Field-Marshal Romberg, Vice-Commandant of the Army. His Majesty the Emperor gives me leave to stay at Brod, or join Field-Marshal Szapary at Doboj. I am not at liberty to go to Serajevo, which I do not regret, but also I cannot join the 4th Army Corps under Field-Marshal Bienerth, who will pass the Save with one of his two divisions the 14th or the 15th instant, at Field-Marshal General Szapary's starting point, Samac. Under the circumstances, I start at once for Doboj.

When there recently, I estimated the force of insurgents at not less than 10,000. Field-Marshal Szapary takes exception to this estimate, and telegraphs that more insurgents have arrived from Dol Tuzla, and that the enemy in his front numbers 20,000 at least.

I consider that the Bosniacs offer resistance now in three districts.

1. Around Dol Tuzla. This may be called the central and offensive insurgent force.

2. In Turkish Croatia, where the Turkish regulars have never obtained the upper hand, and where mountain strongholds exists, never penetrated by Government troops.

3. Novi-Bazar.

I feel confident the district of Novi-Bazar will not be interfered with by the Austrians this season.

The capture of Klyuc or the "Key" was effected in two days after hard fighting. I anticipate an effort will be made to reduce the brigands of Turkish Croatia to reason by cutting off their supplies.

The centre of interest is the Dol Tuzla district, and here the overwhelming force of Austrians insures victory, but at what cost remains to be seen.

I am about to join the 3rd Army Corps, who start with the cry of "No quarter!" The troops have witnessed atrocities, they have probably received more blows than they have given, and it will be difficult to prevent an excess of cruelty. With Field-Marshal Bienerth's force a more "equal mind" may be expected. The 13th and 31st Divisions have not yet been engaged; and by nature I consider the Austrian very humane.

It is a most unfortunate fact that the prisoners taken present a most "hang-dog" appearance. Of the mixed herd now working in the ditch of the Brod fortress there are few faces which inspire the casual visitor with sympathy.

When with the 3rd Army Corps I heard that the insurgents occupied the big trees, and that a man up a tree with a whole box of cartridges "took a deal of killing."

The Bosniacs shoot very badly; it is very seldom that an Austrian in the front line falls. The most deadly weapon in their possession is the Winchester repeating rifle, which seems entrusted to the coolest shots.

The Austrians also seem to shoot very badly, though their "fire discipline" is highly lauded.

Columns go out in all directions to collect arms, and I can record no instance of armed resistance.

The German Consul of Serajevo has passed through this to Austria.

The contractors for making a road to Serajevo are making progress, but I still see no signs of a railway.

The fault in the existing road is that it passes over the steepest part of the mountains, and the delay caused by the applications of drags and the breaking of traces is incredible.

In my opinion, the all-important convoy duty is abominably performed. At the base of operations, Brod, one can learn much to avoid, but I find very little to recommend. Even the standing regulations, which, if adhered to, would cause some kind of order to exist, seem quite set at naught. On the other hand, a fine spirit pervades the troops, who will win if they are well led. I cannot say that these said troops have a great belief in their leaders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 381.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 20.)

(No. 658.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 16, 1878.

M. ZWIEDINEK DE SÜDENHORST, the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General at Bucharest, has been selected by Count Andrassy to represent this Government upon the Consular Commission for Bulgaria. His Excellency concurs with your Lordship in considering it desirable that the Commission should meet as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 382.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 20.)

(No. 660.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 16, 1878.

THE reports received by Count Andrassy from Scutari and Prisrend make him regard Kiamil Bey, the Mutessarif of the latter place, as largely responsible for the development acquired by the Albanian League as well as for the death of Mehemet Ali Pasha; and his Excellency is further dissatisfied at hearing that Mazhar Pasha, whose conduct at Bosna-Serai he regards as very equivocal, was to be sent as Governor to Mitrovitza, where an officer of proved vigour is now needed.

The safety of the foreign Consuls, and of the Christians in general, is supposed to be menaced in those districts, but Count Andrassy believes that, if the Turkish authorities are distinctly made to understand that they will be held responsible for anything that occurs, tranquillity will be preserved until the arrival of trustworthy troops.

Count Andrassy again alluded to the chances of a collision between the Albanians and the Servians, which would have the effect of forcing the Imperial troops to make common cause with the latter, a result that he is most desirous of avoiding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 383.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 20.)

(No. 661. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 16, 1878.

YOUR Lordship will have seen from Major Gonne's Reports that impediments had been thrown in the way of his joining one of the Austrian occupying columns. It had been agreed, as I informed your Lordship, that confidential instructions should be sent to the Generals not to object to Major Gonne's presence, and as these had not been sent, as the Commanders were unwilling to follow them, upon being informed of the difficulty he met with, I repeatedly requested the Government to take the steps to carry out the understanding that was come to, and this has now been done, and Major Gonne is authorized to join General Szapary's head-quarters.

The matter was not quite simple to arrange, as applications from other Military Attachés had been refused, and the exception made in favour of Major Gonne is evidence of the desire of the Emperor and of Count Andrassy to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government.

Count Andrassy told me that the Generals, looking at the present operations rather as the suppression of an insurrection than as a regular war, did not wish to have Military Attachés with them, alleging that they would often be unable to provide them with accommodation.

I believe, however, that they are unwilling that there should be foreign witnesses of the savage character which this war is assuming and the Generals apparently conceal from their own Government.

Count Andrassy declares himself ignorant of the facts reported by Mr. Freeman, which I communicated to him by his own request, and which he forwards to the

Emperor, and also of the execution of whole batches of prisoners, not killed by the soldiers in hot blood, mentioned in the Vienna newspapers.

Officers here, in the highest position, speak of the insurgents as miscreants whom it will be necessary to exterminate, and it is not likely that the Generals on the spot should look upon them with greater tenderness; but the whole progress of events is not encouraging as regards the prospect of a speedy re-establishment of order when the military supremacy of Austria is completed.

I would take the liberty of suggesting that great secrecy may be observed with respect to all Reports received from Major Gonne.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 384.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 20.)

(No. 37. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 8, 1878.

SULEIMAN PASHA and Danish Effendi, the Turkish Consul-General at Ragusa, have this moment arrived from Trebinje.

The latter informs me that yesterday morning, on the approach of the Austrians, the Turkish regulars at once commenced to march out. This so irritated the insurgents, who all along hoped that Suleiman Pasha's forces would assist them in resisting the Austrians, that they fired upon them as they went out, without, however, a shot being returned.

The Austrians, in a skirmish with the insurgents outside the town, lost upwards of twenty in killed and wounded, and had two officers killed.

Suleiman Pasha's troops, about 2,000 strong, are hourly expected at Ragusa, whence they will be conveyed in Austrian vessels to the nearest port to Janina, where, I hear, an army corps is being formed pending the settlement of the difficulties with Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 385.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 20.)

(No. 231.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 19, 1878.

RUSSIAN Government have proposed here that a collective step should be taken at Constantinople calling upon the Porte to evacuate Podgoritza.

Count Andrassy does not wish to return an answer till he knows how your Lordship proposes to reply to a similar application which will have been made to Her Majesty's Government; but he is strongly of opinion that it should be acceded to.

He considers that the position of the Turkish Government in regard to a fortress occupied by the regular troops is quite different from that in regard to mountain districts where they can allege themselves to be without authority, and that there can be no excuse for not executing the Treaty by giving it up.

No. 386.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 20.)

(No. 232.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 19, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 17th, transmitting Sir H. Layard's of previous day, I told Carathéodory that in my opinion the best course for the Porte is to accept last proposals agreed to by Count Andrassy, though a Convention restricted to Novi-Bazar district might do as an alternative if the Porte, which has left him three weeks without intimation of its intentions, cannot at once decide upon their acceptance. He says that he concurs in this opinion.

Count Andrassy would, I believe, agree to a Convention consisting only of the clauses of the project he accepted, which referred to "enclave;" but I am convinced that he will never consent to one in which reference is made to the Berlin Memorandum.

No. 387.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 233.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 19, 1878.*

I COMMUNICATED your telegram of the 17th to Count Andrassy, who made no observation upon it, except warmly to thank you for what he knew you have been doing to induce the Turks to agree to Convention and to execute Treaty.

With respect to Sir H. Layard's telegram of 16th, he maintains that munitions have constantly been passed to the insurgents, and that though it is true that the Porte offered to allow the Austrian Consul at Prisrend to go to Mitrovitza to ascertain the facts, it afterwards intimated that it could not answer for his safety, and asked that he should not be sent.

No. 388.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 844.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 19, 1878.*

IMMEDIATELY after my audience of the Sultan on Saturday the most stringent orders were sent, in his name, to Ismail Hacki Pasha, ordering him to take every measure for the protection and security of Armenian Christians. Pasha has replied, giving the Porte every assurance that tranquillity prevails; that reports sent about excesses and anticipated massacres are unfounded and greatly exaggerated, and that he holds himself responsible for the safety of Christians. I have every reason to believe that there is a design to mislead Europe as to what is passing in Armenia, to incite Armenians against the authority of the Porte, and to cause a panic among them.

No. 389.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 845.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 19, 1878.*

I AM informed that General Klapka [? s] scheme for the construction of a railway through Asia Minor to Bagdad has been accepted in principle by the Council of Ministers, and that he is going to press for the immediate issue of the Sultan's Iradé. The capital is, I understand, to be chiefly supplied from France, and a Syndicate at Paris has telegraphed that it is prepared to hold 400,000,000 fr. Notwithstanding my frequent representations, the Duke of Sutherland has not sent any one out to represent his association. If Her Majesty's Government desire that the railway through Asia Minor and Mesopotamia should be in English hands no time should be lost in taking some steps in the matter.

I am also informed that attempts are being made to purchase the Heraclea mines on Russian account.

No. 390.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, September 19, 1878.*

I HAVE been informed, most secretly, that the Turkish steamer "Tarif," expected to-day, has on board Commissioners for the demarkation of the new frontier.

Should this news transpire here the effect will be like that of a spark in a gunpowder barrel. I cannot use words strong enough to point out the danger of any attempt to carry out demarkation under present circumstances.

The preparations to resist it, made at the instigation of the authorities, cannot be now annulled by a simple change of orders.

The troops and officials are all pledged to the natives to resist every cession of territory.

New commanders and troops ought to be sent before any action is taken.

I advise that the mission of the Commissioners should not be divulged, and that it should be published that the demarkation has been momentarily suspended.

The Commander of Podgoritza and some Pashas here have already telegraphed their resignations to the Porte, rather than execute expected evacuation.

I beg that I may be informed if it is intended to undertake demarkation at all hazards, in order that I may decide whether my family had better withdraw to a place of safety.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 391.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, September 20, 1878.*

CAPTAIN NAPIER having asked me whether he should make arrangements to winter in Khorassan, I forwarded his request to the Viceroy of India, who replied to-day as follows:—

"Napier may winter in Khorassan, keeping near Herat and Afghanistan frontier."

No. 392.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *September 20, 1878.*

A QUESTION arises as to administration of Eastern Roumelia during sitting of Commission. Russians occupy, but occupation does not mean administration. French Ambassador is strong on this point. He says that when England occupied France in 1815 and 1816, and Germany in 1871, French administration was maintained. He thinks that Commission should administer.

Sir H. Layard thinks that Porte should do so.

Article XIX of the Treaty recognizes presence of the Porte in the province and limits its rights only to finance.

Article XXI maintains rights and obligations as to railroads.

Article XV, as to gendarmerie and militia, is in present tense.

Have you any instructions on the subject, or will you leave it to me to do the best I can?

Have instructions been given by French Minister for Foreign Affairs to French Commissioner as to Philippopolis?

French Ambassador, who is anxious for it, tells me he fears his Commissioner is undecided.

No. 393.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, September 20, 1878.

I AM told that the German Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed the Greek Minister here, in reply to the late Circular, that Germany would take no initiative in the matter, but that they were prepared to follow the course adopted by those Powers who took the initiative in Greek matters at the Congress.

No. 394.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 51. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, September 20, 1878.

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires here showed me to-day confidentially a telegram from his Government which he had just communicated to the German Government, of which the following was the substance:—

It was time that Podgoritza should be given up by the Turks to Montenegro. It was purely a military question. Russian Government were informed that bands of Albanians were collecting under a Turkish Pasha with the object of taking possession of the fortifications of Podgoritza. If Montenegro were obliged to take up arms again serious complications might arise. He was instructed to point this out to the German Government.

From its wording this instruction appeared to me to be a Circular. Prince Bismarck having kept his bed since the 17th instant, Russian Chargé d'Affaires has had to telegraph to Livadia that he can as yet obtain no reply.

No. 395.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, September 20, 1878, 5·45 P.M.

RUSSIANS earnestly press for immediate cession of Podgoritza. Nothing but injury to Sultan's Government and to Turkey can result from retention of it. Impress both upon the Porte and Sultan extreme importance of giving orders to their officers to hand it over immediately.

No. 396.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)
Foreign Office, September 20, 1878.

COUNT ANDRASSY informs me that if war should break out between Montenegro and Turkey on the subject of Treaty, Austria might be forced, very reluctantly, to take the Montenegrin side.

No. 397.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Deym.

(Confidential.)
M. le Comte,
Foreign Office, September 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to express to you my thanks for your confidential communication to me of the information contained in Count Andrassy's telegram of the 15th instant respecting the intended concentration of the Russian forces south of the Balkans. With regard to the second telegram of the same date, with the contents of which you were also good enough to acquaint me, I have to assure you that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has received instructions fully to support his

Austro-Hungarian colleague in his representations respecting the punishment of the murderers of Mehemet Ali.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 398.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1130.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, September 20, 1878.

I INFORMED you this day by telegraph that the Russian Government had addressed a communication to Her Majesty's Government earnestly pressing for the immediate cession of Podgoritza.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that the retention of this place can only result in injury to the Sultan's Government and to Turkey, and I have accordingly instructed your Excellency to urge upon the Porte and upon His Majesty the Sultan the extreme importance of directing the Turkish authorities to hand over the place without further delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 399.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1132. Secret.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, September 20, 1878.

COUNT ANDRASSY has stated to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna that in the event of hostilities breaking out between Turkey and Montenegro, owing to the non-fulfilment by the Porte of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, it is possible that Austria may be compelled, though with great reluctance, to take the side of Montenegro.

I communicated the substance of the above to your Excellency this day by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 400.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 68. Political.)
My Lord,
Scutari, September 9, 1878.

MY Report No. 67, Political, of yesterday, had hardly been written before a rumour became current in town that the Pasha had received a telegram announcing that Mehemed Ali Pasha and his retinue had been assassinated by the Albanian populace of Jacova, and that the regular troops which had been under the General's command had mutinied and joined the rioters.

A messenger had also arrived from Prisrend, sent by the Austrian Consul there to his colleague here, to announce that the greatest disorder prevailed, and that the people were so excited that he (the Consul) could not venture upon making his report in writing lest it should be intercepted and lead to his, or at least the carrier's, death.

In the evening I called upon Hussein Pasha to inquire how far these rumours were to be credited, and I expressed to his Excellency my regret that he should have abstained from informing me, although it had not reached him through an official source, of the reception of the alarming telegram from Monastir.

I said that the present was not a time when dangers could be avoided by shutting our eyes to them, and that mutual confidence ought to exist between the Turkish and British officers. It was only by such confidence that the lamentable impression which had got abroad that the Turkish Government and authorities were the instigators of a

simulated anarchy could be dissipated, and that the native populations could be once more brought under subjection. Without wishing to wound his Excellency's feelings I felt bound to make him understand that his authority could but benefit by a close accord with the honesty of purpose which was an admitted attribute of British policy.

I am prepared to believe Hussein Pasha and the officials here loyal to their Government, but, as they have possibly failed to comprehend its intention to fulfil to the letter its Treaty engagements, their proceedings bear an appearance of duplicity which is full of danger for every life and interest in North Albania.

However great may be the power gained by the League of National Safety I am sure it would instantly disappear before the faintest sign of discouragement from the Porte. Its strength is derived from the general conviction that it is the true exponent of the aims of the supreme authority.

In the actual state of affairs I believe it would be wise to hold the Government responsible for all occurrences, and not to accept too readily its assertions of inability to stem the popular outburst.

I am informed that the Sub-Committee of National Safety here has received orders from the Central Board, established at Prisrend, to watch over the safety of the Christians and foreigners, but, at the same time, to be prepared to adopt the most determined action for the public good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 401.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 787.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 16, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 766 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a telegram from the Grand Duke Michael, dated the 13th instant is published in the "Messager Officiel," announcing that Dervish Pasha with the remainder of the Turkish troops has left Batoum, and that the first detachment of Russian troops had already left Erzeroum, and that the last detachments would evacuate that town on the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 402.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 43. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, September 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch received by yesterday's mail from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, reporting the arrival at Prevesa on the 3rd instant of two Austrian Lloyd's steamers, having on board Turkish regulars from Bosnia or Herzegovina, and also stating the opinions current in Santa Maura relative to the sentiments and present attitude of the Mussulman population of Epirus and Thessaly in view of the projected annexation of those provinces to Greece.

2. Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney of Prevesa, who arrived here yesterday—having obtained a week's leave of absence on account of urgent family affairs—fully confirms the main points broached in Mr. Onofrio's Report.

3. Mr. Blakeney also informs me that on the 14th instant another transport arrived from the northward with 600 Turkish regulars on board—making the whole effective force in the sandjak something near 30,000 men, many of whom, however, are without arms, of which they had either been deprived by the Austrians, or had themselves delivered them over to the insurgents.

4. Mr. Blakeney further assures me that there are no longer any Bashi-Bazouks in Epirus, and that the irregulars referred to in my last Report as Circassians, were

not really Circassians, but light cavalry wearing a uniform similar to that worn by those ruthless savages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 402.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, September 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that two Austrian Lloyd's steamers arrived at Prevesa on Tuesday afternoon (10th instant) and disembarked about 2,000 Turkish troops from Herzegovina. They were escorted by an Austrian and by a Turkish ironclad, which remained at anchor off Prevesa during the disembarkation of the troops, and sailed northwards on Wednesday morning.

2. According to the latest advices from Prevesa, the Ottoman forces at present concentrated in Epirus—including the troops above alluded to—amount to about 30,000 men, comprising 2,000 cavalry. Some 7,000 are stationed at Prevesa, 12,000 to 13,000 at Janina, and some 10,000 at Arta and frontier parts.

3. The attitude of the Albanian Mussulmans, whose leaders have of late held frequent meetings at Prevesa and elsewhere, is a matter causing deep concern and apprehension to the Rajahs and Greeks alike. The scheme of Abdul Bey—alluded to in my despatches Nos. 67 and 69—to place Albania under the protectorate of Italy, seems to have been discarded since the closing of the Berlin Congress; but the Albanian League are now determined to maintain the Sultan's authority over the adjoining province, and to resist annexation to Greece. It is, therefore, anticipated that, however the mediation of the Powers may eventually bring about a peaceful settlement of the main question between Greece and the Porte, in terms of the Treaty of Berlin, serious disturbances will not be averted in the opposite province, and that, moreover, Greece may find it a somewhat arduous task to repress single-handed the contemplated resistance of the Mussulman Albanians, who may likely be aided by a powerful contingent of deserters from the Turkish ranks, as has unfortunately already been the case in Bosnia and Herzegovina. That the Albanian question is causing anxiety in Athens, is shown by the concluding paragraph of an article in the officious "Ethnikon Pneyma" of the 2nd August / 14th September 1878, which I have the honour to inclose for your perusal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 403.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 735.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 19, 1878.*

M. STOICESCO, the Acting Roumanian Agent, has placed in my hands the inclosed copies of a despatch to him from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Bucharest, accompanied by correspondence between the Russian Representative there and that Ministry, and he has requested me to forward them to your Lordship. They relate to the cession of Bessarabian Roumania to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 403.

M. Campinéano to M. Stoïcesco.

M. le Gérant, *Bucarest, le 24 Août / 5 Septembre, 1878.*

MES précédents offices ont porté à votre connaissance que, conformément à une résolution du Congrès, le Gouvernement Roumain a reçu communication du Traité de Berlin, devenu définitif par suite de l'échange des ratifications.

Il s'est empressé d'accuser réception de cette communication par les voies d'usage au Cabinet duquel elle émanait.

Tout récemment, ainsi que vous pourrez le relever de la lecture des pièces ci-annexées en copie, M. le Représentant de Russie à Bucarest vient au nom de son Gouvernement de saisir ce Département d'une demande tendant à accélérer la prise de possession de la Bessarabie par les autorités Russes.

Le Gouvernement Roumain, en présence des hautes décisions des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à l'égard de la Roumanie, et devant l'insistance du Cabinet Impérial pour l'exécution immédiate des stipulations de ce Traité, s'est vu dans l'obligation de s'occuper du transfert de la Bessarabie Roumaine à la Russie, et a pris des mesures à cet effet. En conséquence, il a dû répondre à M. le Représentant de Russie qu'il tient à la disposition des autorités Impériales le territoire dont l'abandon est imposé à la Roumanie par la volonté collective de l'Europe et par la force majeure des circonstances.

Ainsi, quelque douloureuses que soient pour la Roumanie quelques-unes des conditions du Traité de Berlin et bien que, à considérer l'ensemble de ces conditions, l'attente de la nation Roumaine, qui avait manifesté ses droits et ses vœux soit par les votes de ses Corps Législatifs, soit par les notes et les paroles de ses Délégués au Congrès, n'ait pas été remplie, le Gouvernement Roumain ne peut-il que se conformer aux résolutions suprêmes de l'Europe et est-il décidé à les exécuter dans un esprit d'entière loyauté.

Il a le ferme espoir que la diligence de la Roumanie et ses efforts pour reprendre l'essor de son développement, selon la situation matérielle et morale qui lui est assignée par le Traité de Berlin, seront aux yeux de l'Europe un témoignage et une garantie de plus que l'Etat Roumain sera dans l'avenir, comme il était dans le passé, un élément d'ordre et de civilisation, en sa qualité d'intermédiaire entre l'Occident et l'Orient, et qu'il mérite ainsi la confiance des Grandes Puissances.

C'est dans le but de se créer un nouveau titre à leur sollicitude et à leur bienveillance, auxquelles il n'a jamais cessé de faire et fait encore appel, que le Gouvernement Roumain procède dès à présent à l'exécution réelle du Traité de Berlin et a pris toutes ses dispositions pour la convocation et la réunion des Corps Législatifs au $\frac{14}{26}$ Septembre prochain.

Je vous autorise, M. le Gérant, à donner lecture et à laisser copie de la présente note et de ses annexes à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Angleterre.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) T. CAMPINÉANO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 403.

Baron Stuart to M. Campinéano.

Bucarest, le $\frac{14}{26}$ Août, 1878.

M. le Ministre,

LE Traité de Berlin étant entré en pleine vigueur par l'échange des ratifications, le Gouvernement Impérial a bien voulu me charger de lui faire connaître le mode de procéder que le Gouvernement Roumain désirerait choisir afin de mettre sans délai à exécution les décisions de Berlin.

Dans une dépêche qui m'a été adressée à ce sujet, le Conseiller Privé Actuel de Giers exprime que tout le monde est intéressé d'accélérer l'exécution du Traité de Berlin, afin de rétablir en Orient et en Europe l'état de paix trop longtemps troublé, et dont la réunion de Berlin a eu pour but essentiel de poser les bases.

M. de Giers ajoute que le Cabinet Impérial désire de replacer ses relations avec la Roumanie sur le pied d'une franche et cordiale amitié et qu'il croit que c'est également l'intérêt du Gouvernement Roumain.

Relativement à la Bessarabie, M. de Giers m'informe que Sa Majesté l'Empereur désirerait que la rétrocession de ce territoire soit opérée d'après le même mode qui a été suivi pour son transfert en 1857 à la Moldavie, et dont l'exposé se trouve dans la notice ci-jointe.

D'après ce précédent le Gouvernement Roumain aurait :—

1. A nommer un Commissaire muni de pleins pouvoirs pour établir la nouvelle frontière de concert avec un Commissaire Russe.

2. A nommer des Délégués spéciaux afin d'établir dans tous les détails, avec le concours de Délégues nommés par le Cabinet Impérial, l'ordre d'après lequel le territoire et les affaires financières, administratives, et judiciaires seront transférées aux autorités Russes. Les mêmes Délégués pourront effectuer le transfert de la partie cédée de la Dobrudscha aux autorités Roumaines lorsque la délimitation aura été faite.

3. Une fois l'entente établie en principe sur ces divers points, à désigner un terme fixe pour l'occupation de la nouvelle frontière par les troupes Russes et la sortie des troupes Roumaines.

Le Ministère Impérial espère que le Gouvernement Roumain appréciera l'urgence d'accélérer l'accomplissement des formalités nécessaires pour l'entrée en fonctions de la Commission. De son côté, le Gouvernement Impérial se propose d'envoyer préalablement sur les lieux les employés Russes qui seront investis de fonctions administratives et judiciaires, afin qu'ils se concertent avec les employés Roumains sur les détails de leurs obligations réciproques quant au transfert de toutes les affaires de leur ressort.

Votre Excellence ne manquera certainement pas d'apprécier l'importance de cette liquidation générale pour les relations futures des deux pays.

Sans garder un souvenir pénible des regrettables entraînements qui ont altéré dans ces derniers temps l'harmonie de nos rapports mutuels et ont douloureusement affecté les vrais amis de la Roumanie, notre auguste Maître est prêt à reprendre les bons rapports traditionnels avec ce pays qui n'auraient jamais dû subir la moindre atteinte. Mais il faudrait que le Gouvernement Roumain témoigne de son côté par des faits de ses dispositions pour l'avenir, et qu'il profite avant tout de l'occasion actuelle pour déterminer par sa manière d'agir l'attitude que le Cabinet Impérial devra observer à son égard.

Le Gouvernement Impérial désirant concourir en tant que possible à accélérer la marche de l'affaire qui nous occupe, je viens prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire connaître au plus tôt les décisions du Gouvernement Princier quant à la marche à suivre et aux termes à fixer, afin que le Ministère Impérial puisse sans retard se mettre en rapport avec les divers Ministères desquels relèvent les détails d'exécution et la nomination des Délégués spéciaux.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) STUART.

Inclosure 3 in No. 403.

Notice sur le modus procedendi *suivi en* 1857 *pour le transfert de la partie de la Bessarabie concedée à la Moldavie.*

LA transmission à la Moldavie de la partie de Bessarabie fut effectuée en 1857 avec observation des formalités suivantes :—

1. Un acte spécial établissant la nouvelle frontière fut dressé par les Plénipotentiaries des deux côtés. Le Délégué Russe agissait en vertu d'un plein pouvoir revêtu de la signature de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies.

2. Les dossiers des affaires furent remis par des fonctionnaires Russes à des fonctionnaires administratifs et judiciaires Princiers.

3. Le mode de transmission avait été établi par une Commission Spéciale, formée de Délégués de différentes Administrations tant Impériales que Princières.

Cette Commission, présidée par le Gouverneur de la Bessarabie, était formée du maréchal de la noblesse et des Chefs de toutes les Administrations de la province. Elle comptait en outre dans son sein trois Commissaires Princiers. Elle débuta par dresser un Tableau statistique détaillé de toutes espèces de propriétés ainsi qu'un relevé de toutes les affaires administratives et judiciaires qui devaient être remises.

La Commission s'empressa de liquider tous les comptes de la Couronne avec les particuliers et de transporter en Russie le matériel appartenant à la Couronne, ainsi que les dossiers qui n'étaient pas passibles de remise au Gouvernement Princier. Là-dessus elle rédigea une instruction pour la gouverne des employés chargés de préparer les dossiers destinés à être remis au Gouvernement Princier.

En conséquence de cette instruction les fonctionnaires Impériaux dressèrent avec les fonctionnaires Princiers des actes séparés concernant la remise des dossiers judiciaires, administratifs, domaniaux, relatifs aux Colonies, &c. Ces actes furent accompagnés de procès-verbaux relatifs aux dossiers terminés et non terminés, aux capitaux, édifices de la Couronne, magasins d'approvisionnements dans les villages, régistres de contributions, &c. Les églises et écoles furent remises aux autorités Princières par les Délégués spéciaux.

Conformément à ce qui précède il eut été désirable que le Gouvernement Roumain veuille bien :—

1. Désigner un Commissaire spécial pour dresser l'acte établissant la nouvelle frontière des deux Etats.

2. Nommer le nombre de Délégués nécessaires pour établir, de concert avec les Délégués du Gouvernement Russe, le mode de transmission détaillée des affaires de chaque branche séparément.

L'installation de la nouvelle frontière qui se borne à suivre un cours d'eau ne pouvant pas présenter de grandes difficultés le Commissaire de Délimitation pourrait être admis à prendre part aux travaux de la Commission de transfert du territoire rétrocédé.

Il serait surtout urgent de fixer d'un commun accord avec le Gouvernement Princier un terme pour l'évacuation du territoire en question par l'armée Roumaine et pour l'occupation de la ligne frontière par nos piquets. Quant aux propriétés du fisc et des églises et monastères leur transmission devrait être faite sur la base des dispositions prises à cet effet en 1857.

Cette même base pourrait être adoptée pour la transmission des prisons et des dossiers relatifs aux détenus, ainsi que pour tout ce qui concerne les revenus du fisc, les arriérés d'impôts, les capitaux déposés, &c.

L'entente avec le Gouvernement Roumain relativement au mode de procédure pour la transmission du territoire en question ne suppose pas la nécessité d'un acte international à cet effet.

Inclosure 4 in No. 403.

M. Campinéano to Baron Stuart.

M. le Ministre, *Bukharest, le* $\frac{24 \text{ Août}}{5 \text{ Septembre}}$ 1878.

EN vous accusant réception de votre lettre du $\frac{1}{13}$ courant, et pour déférer aux désirs qui y sont énoncés, j'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence les dispositions que le Gouvernement Princier croit utile d'adopter afin d'assurer la marche régulière de la prise de possession de la Bessarabie par les autorités Russes, et de ménager ainsi les intérêts d'ordres divers engagés dans la question.

Tout d'abord je prendrai la liberté d'exprimer à votre Excellence que je ne puis que m'associer complétement à l'opinion formulée dans la dépêche de son Excellence M. le Conseiller Actuel de Giers, à laquelle se réfère votre lettre, sur l'importance générale du prompt rétablissement de la paix en Orient et en Europe.

Nul pays plus que le pays Roumain ne ressent le besoin de voir le retour à l'état de paix rendre aux affaires leur cours normal et leur sécurité. C'est là, pour le développement régulier et la prospérité de la Roumanie, une condition aussi essentielle que l'harmonie des rapports qu'elle a toujours eu à cœur d'entretenir avec ses puissants voisins. Aussi, bien que les résolutions du Traité de Berlin à l'égard de la Roumanie diffèrent de celles qu'elle espérait, le Gouvernement Princier, guidé par ses sentiments de déférence envers l'Europe, est-il décidé à exécuter loyalement, en ce qui le concerne, les clauses du dit Traité, et à donner ainsi une preuve nouvelle du prix qu'il attache à conserver la confiance et la sollicitude des Puissances Signataires.

Les mesures déjà prises au sujet de plusieurs de ces clauses témoignent des intentions qui animent à ce sujet le Cabinet Princier.

A l'égard de la procédure que votre Excellence veut bien proposer d'adopter pour effectuer le transfert de la Bessarabie à la Russie, le Gouvernement Roumain pense qu'elle est susceptible d'une notable simplification. Il croit que l'institution d'une Commission Internationale chargée de tracer la nouvelle limite entre les deux pays n'aurait d'autre résultat que d'apporter un certain retard à l'exécution de l'Article XLV du Traité de Berlin. En effet, le travail de la délimitation, indispensable en 1857, alors qu'il s'agissait de fixer des frontières pour ainsi dire conventionnelles, est aujourd'hui superflu, puisque ces frontières, indiquées expressément et sans contestation possible, sont formées naturellement d'un côté par le Pruth, de l'autre par le Thalweg du bras de Kilia avec l'embouchure de Stari Stamboul.

Le Cabinet Princier reconnaissant avec votre Excellence l'utilité de Délégués spéciaux pour les différentes branches administratives et judiciaires, a donné à tous les fonctionnaires supérieurs des instructions qui leur prescrivent de se mettre en position de régler à bref délai, de concert avec les Délégués spéciaux du Cabinet Impérial,

officiellement désignés *ad hoc*, l'ordre de transmission des services, des archives, dossiers, &c., suivant les formes d'usage en pareil cas.

Je suis persuadé, M. le Ministre, que votre Excellence appréciera le mode pratique suivant lequel le Gouvernement Roumain est d'avis que pourrait s'opérer le transfert de la Bessarabie à la Russie. Cette manière de procéder lui a été inspirée par l'urgence avec laquelle le Cabinet Impérial, aux termes de la lettre de votre Excellence, demande à accélérer l'accomplissement des formalités nécessaires à la prise de possession de la Bessarabie par les autorités Impériales.

En terminant, je ne puis que me féliciter du désir exprimé par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de reprendre avec la Roumanie les bons rapports qui n'auraient jamais dû subir la moindre atteinte.

Je savais, M. le Ministre, que les vrais amis de la Roumanie avaient déploré le désaccord récemment survenu, mais je dois remercier votre Excellence de vouloir bien partager cet avis.

Grâce aux dispositions du Cabinet Impérial, et au concours de votre Excellence, je ne doute pas de voir les meilleures relations exister désormais entre le Gouvernement Impérial Russe et le Gouvernement Roumain.

Je prie, &c.

No. 404.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 846.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 20, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 18th instant, Grand Vizier declares to me in writing, in the most solemn and formal manner, that the Sultan has never thought nor had the slightest idea of encouraging in any way whatever either the resistance of the Bosnians to the Austrian occupation or the opposition of the Albanians to the cession of the territories to Servia and Montenegro.

Nothing, his Highness states, can justify a [similar?] supposition, His Majesty being more convinced than anyone else can be of the necessities of the present moment, and more desirous to see order and tranquillity firmly established in all parts of his Empire.

Grand Vizier requests me to telegraph the above to your Lordship.

No. 405.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 847. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 21, 1878.

I AM secretly informed that the Sultan will propose to the Council of Ministers to address a Circular to the Powers stating that Austria has invaded Bosnia without having entered into any Convention or Agreement with Turkey; that her troops have committed great cruelties upon Mussulman population, and that the Porte protests against their unjustifiable proceedings.

I have strongly urged upon the Grand Vizier not to take a step which cannot but cause the greatest irritation and resentment on the part of Austria against Turkey.

No. 406.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 22.)

(No. 744.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 21, 1878.

M. WADDINGTON told me to-day that he had received a telegram from the French Commissioner Aubaret at Belgrade to the effect that the other Commissioners for the delimitation of the Servian frontier were awaiting the arrival of their English colleague, and that no information with respect to him could be obtained from the English Political Agent at Belgrade.

M. Waddington requested me to ask your Lordship when the English Commissioner was likely to arrive at Belgrade, as it appeared to be important that the work of the Commission should be commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. O. ADAMS.

No. 407.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 848.)
(Telegraphic) *Constantinople, September* 21, 1878.

RUSSIAN Ambassador informs me that all the members of the Commission for the delimitation of the Servian frontier are now at Belgrade except English. He wishes to know whether the Commission is to commence its work at once without waiting for the British Commissioner. In his opinion the Commission cannot be considered legally constituted until it is complete.

No. 408.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 850.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 21, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Grand Vizier says Porte will take all the measures in its power to give over Podgoritza to Montenegro, but that the difficulties are great, owing to the excitable attitude of the Albanians, and he trusts that Her Majesty's Government will make allowance for them.

No. 409.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 851.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 21, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER [? approves] your Lordship's suggestion to name Rustem Pasha at once Governor of Eastern Roumelia. He sees some difficulty in carrying it out, but will consult his colleagues. His Highness wishes to ascertain, through Her Majesty's Government, the views of Signatory Powers as to whether, under Treaty of Berlin, the civil administration of the provinces ought to revert to Turkey.

No. 410.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 478.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Athens, September* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to my despatch No. 475 of the 3rd instant, that M. Coundouriotti has informed the Greek Government that, until an answer shall have been returned by the Great Powers to the Turkish Circular of the 8th August, the Porte will not answer the Greek note; consequently, the Greek Government appealed last night to the Great Powers for their mediation with respect to a rectification of Greek frontier.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 411.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 788.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 17, 1878.

THE "Journal de St. Petersbourg" of this morning publishes the text, as herewith inclosed, of the telegraphic appeal which was addressed to the Emperor of Russia by the Sultan, and of the reply which was given by the Emperor, respecting the cruelties committed upon the Mussulman population in Bulgaria and in Eastern Roumelia.

Your Lordship will notice that the language employed by the Emperor on this occasion is identical to that with which M. de Giers has replied to the many remonstrances which it has been my duty lately to make to the Russian Government upon the same subject.

It seems, however, peculiar that His Majesty the Emperor should profess surprise on the $\frac{15}{27}$th August at hearing of these atrocities, when we recollect that on the 21st and 22nd of that month, by your Lordship's instructions, I had officially drawn M. de Giers' attention to the same subject, and that in a note dated the $\frac{14}{26}$th, his Excellency had informed me that His Majesty refused to consent to the nomination of a Consular Commission to inquire into the alleged cases of cruelty, and to protect those who might be threatened.

Your Lordship will, moreover, not have forgotten that M. de Giers, as reported in my despatch No. 707 of the 14th August, showed me a despatch from Prince Labanoff, dated as far back as the $\frac{1}{13}$th July, in which the atrocities were in many cases acknowledged, and only the blame of them shifted, from Russian and Bulgarian, unto Greek shoulders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 411.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of September $\frac{5}{17}$, 1878.

Télégramme de Sa Majesté le Sultan à Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

Constantinople, le 17 *Août,* 1878.

LES nouvelles qui parviennent à mon Gouvernement sur la situation navrante des populations Musulmanes tant en Roumélie-Orientale qu'en Bulgarie, sont de nature à exciter les sentiments de compassion bien connus de votre Majesté. On ne peut pas se faire une juste idée des cruautés exercées par les Bulgares sur des milliers d'êtres humains; meurtres, pillages, viols, rien n'est épargné, et ce sont là des faits qui se commettent journellement. Dépouillés de tout, les malheureux émigrés sont réduits à errer dans les rues sans asile et à coucher en plein air. Dans cette situation, je fais appel avec confiance aux sentiments d'humanité de votre Majesté et je la prie de vouloir bien donner ses ordres pour que la vie, l'honneur et les biens des populations Musulmanes soient assurés d'une manière effiecace.

Télégramme de Sa Majesté l'Empereur à Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Odessa, le 18 *Août,* 1878.

LE télégramme de votre Majesté m'a causé une pénible surprise. J'aime à espérer que les nouvelles qui lui parviennent sur les souffrances des populations Musulmanes en Bulgarie et dans la Roumélie-Orientale sont pour le moins exagérées. Votre Majesté me rend justice en exprimant la confiance que je ne saurais tolérer un pareil état de choses. Aussi suis-je certain que ni le Commandant-en-chef de mon armée, ni le Commissaire Russe en Bulgarie ne manqueront jamais de réprimer sévèrement tout acte d'injustice commis au détriment des populations à la sécurité et au bien-être desquelles ils ont ordre de veiller sans aucune distinction de religion et de race.

No. 412.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 38. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, September 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that in addition to the Turkish prisoners mentioned in my despatch No. 36, Political, as having been embarked at Sebastopol for Constantinople, Vice-Consul Moffat informs me 3,853 were embarked in Turkish men-of-war on the 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 413.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 44. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, September 19, 1878.*

IN my despatch No. 36, Consular, of the 12th instant, paragraph 3, I had the honour to report that Her Majesty's ship "Torch" had left us on a short cruize to the northward.

2. I have now the honour to state that the "Torch" returned to this anchorage on the night of the 15th instant, having gone as far as Avlona, where she remained at anchor a couple of days.

3. Commander Hamond reports to me that, from the information he was enabled to collect on shore, the interior of the country about Berat and Monastir was infested by bands of marauders, by whom great excesses were being committed on the peaceably-disposed inhabitants.

4. Even in the immediate neighbourhood of the port of Avlona there is a prevailing sense of insecurity, for which intelligent natives see no remedy but in the occupation of the country by foreign troops; they would greatly prefer the English, but Austrians or Italians would be welcome, only let a Government be established by which life and property would be rendered secure.

They are a fine people. I pity their hard lot from the bottom of my soul; but whence is the deliverance they long for to come?

5. Hitherto, at this season, the presence at Patras of one of Her Majesty's ships has always been found necessary to maintain order among the crews of the numerous British steamers frequenting that port for the purpose of loading currants; and as Her Majesty's ship "Antelope," latterly appointed for that duty, has unexpectedly received another destination, the "Torch" will start from hence to-morrow, in order to yield Mr. Consul Wood such naval assistance as he may require.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 414.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 665. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 18, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has mentioned to me that Prince Charles of Roumania is thinking of putting himself forward as a candidate for the Principality of Bulgaria, but he is not at all disposed to favour such a combination.

I learnt also from his Excellency that Count Schouvaloff, having spoken to him of the Montenegrin Senator Petrovitch as an eligible candidate for Bulgaria, he had declared categorically that he could not countenance such a selection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 415.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 666. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 18, 1878.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF left Vienna rather unexpectedly on Sunday, it having been announced that he had deferred his departure for a few days.

Everything leads me to believe the true object of his visit to have been to ascertain whether the Austrian Government could be induced to declare the annexation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and although it is whispered that he intimated a willingness on the part of his Government to agree to that annexation being extended as far as Salonica, he received so little encouragement from Count Andrassy as to give him no reason for prolonging his stay.

Such a proposal must be regarded as tantamount to one for the partition of European Turkey; and that Count Schouvaloff attached much importance to promoting the immediate annexation of Bosnia to Austria, may be inferred from the fact of his having suggested to the correspondent of one of the English newspapers that he should induce his employers to favour the project.

He appears to have been very free in criticizing the proceedings of the Russian authorities in Bulgaria, where, he said, it was proposed to establish a system of Government so unsuited to the country as to make its failure certain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 416.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 667.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September 19, 1878.*

THE difficulty met in carrying out the occupation of Bosnia is causing a daily increasing recrimination between the different parties in this country, the balance of the complaints being, however, directed against Count Andrassy for having pursued a policy that has led to a state of affairs with which all are dissatisfied.

None but a very small party approve of the course that has been followed, for while the Hungarians would have desired a policy avowedly favourable to Turkey, and hostile to Russia, the military and Slav parties were for precisely the contrary. While there can be no doubt of Count Andrassy's personal sentiments lying rather with the former than with the latter, he has been obliged to take both into account, with the usual result of pleasing neither. His enemies, moreover, allege that, underrating the opposition likely to be made to the occupation, he insisted upon its being undertaken with too small a force, while his friends assert that much of the loss suffered by the Imperial army is directly attributable to the unpardonable blunders of the Commanders.

By others much, and sometimes very unjust, blame is thrown upon the Porte, which is accused not only of having done nothing to prevent opposition on the part of the populations, but even of encouraging it underhand. It is entirely forgotten that the occupation was commenced with a precipitation that rendered it impossible for the Porte to prepare the people for it, or to come to a previous agreement with the Austrian Government, although it must be conceded that the conditions at first put forward were such as to leave very little prospect of a Convention being concluded with the rapidity that was essential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 417.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 536.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September* 19, 1878.

ONE of my colleagues showed me to-day copy of a telegram he had sent to his Government, stating that the German Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated to the Greek Minister, in reply to the late Circular, that Germany could take no initiative in the matter, but that they should wait and see what line was taken by the remaining Great Powers, more especially those who already had taken an initiative in the matter at the time of the Berlin Congress.

I subsequently called on Herr von Bülow, who confirmed this to me, and added that the German Government were inclined to share the views expressed by your Lordship on the subject to Baron von Brincken, which he had reported to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 418.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 538. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September* 19, 1878.

I CALLED on the Russian Chargé d'Affaires to-day, and in the course of conversation he showed me confidentially copy of a telegram which he had lately received from his Government, and the contents of which he had a day or two ago communicated to the German Government. I had only time to make a cursory examination of this document, but it was to the effect that it was time that representations should be made to Turkey that they must give up Podgoritza to Montenegro. The cession of the fortifications of that place was purely a military question. The Russians had consented to delay the meeting of the Commission for the delimitation of the new Montenegrin frontier, and now they were informed that armed bands of Albanians were assembling under the direction of Hussein Pasha, with the object at a given moment of taking possession of the fortifications of Podgoritza and forcing the Montenegrins to take up arms. Should this ever happen very serious complications might arise, and M. Arapoff was instructed to point this out to the German Government.

I remarked to M. Arapoff that from the wording of this instruction it looked like a Circular instruction to appeal to the Powers for collective action, but he replied that he had not been told so. He added that Prince Bismarck had been confined to his bed since the day he made his last speech in Parliament, and that he had been obliged to telegraph to M. de Giers at Livadia, and that for the present he could obtain no reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 419.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 541.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of an extract from the "Nord Deutsche Zeitung," which recapitulates the late action of the German Government in regard to its proposal to the Great Powers to use identic action towards the Porte with a view to obtain a more immediate fulfilment of the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin. It goes on to state that, now that Batoum is given up to Russia, and that Turkey had, by the mission of Mehemet Ali, shown herself more alive to the necessity of action, the situation had changed, and Germany did not, for the present, contemplate taking any further steps in this direction.

I mentioned this extract to Herr von Bülow to-day, who said that it might be considered a very fair statement of the present attitude of Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

Inclosure in No. 419.

Extract from the "Nord Deutsche Zeitung" of September 19, 1878.

(Translation.)

WE learn, with regard to the steps taken by the Powers, originated by the Berlin Cabinet, respecting the more rapid execution by the Porte of the Treaty of Berlin, that while Russia, Austria, and France expressed their willingness to co-operate, Italy made the confidential communication that she would follow the action of England, and stipulated for the complete unanimity of the Powers as a condition of her adherence. Lord Salisbury maintained that too short a time had elapsed since the conclusion of the Treaty to form a decided judgment as to its execution. The evacuation of Shumla, Varna, and Batoum proved the good-will of the Sultan to meet the engagements into which he had entered, while some regard must be paid to the internal difficulties of the Porte, resulting from a war which has weakened the forces of the Empire.

The German Government will not pursue the matter further for the present, more especially since the situation has undergone a change through the evacuation of Batoum. The German suggestion belonged to an earlier period at which the Porte appeared to be exerting itself less about the execution of the Treaty.

No. 420.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 542.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September* 21, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 538 of the 19th instant, I learn from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires here that the German Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed him that he has instructed Count Hatzfeld to make to the Porte a representation relating to the evacuation of Podgoritza, as requested by the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 421.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, September 23.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 21 Septembre*, 1878.

REÇU télégramme Spécial No. 393.

J'approuve le langage que vous avez tenu à M. Lister. Nous prenons nos mesures pour assurer, conformément aux dispositions du Traité de Berlin, l'échange des territoires stipulées par cet acte, ainsi que la cession des localités adjugées à la Servie et au Monténégro. Nous avons rencontré également de grandes difficultés dans les localités cédées à la Russie; mais nous sommes parvenus à les surmonter et à calmer les esprits par les moyens de persuasion, et les troupes Russes ont pris possession de ces pays sans rencontrer aucune résistance; nous espérons qu'il en sera de même en ce qui concerne les territoires à céder à la Servie et au Monténégro.

No. 422.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 852.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September* 22, 1878.

FOLLOWING has been sent to Consul Sandwith, dated to-day:—

"Porte proposes to adopt principle laid down by the Constitution with regard to elections to the Assembly, which would give Christians the majority. I have submitted your views to the Grand Vizier. Porte is not disposed at present moment to

agree to demand that the Governor-General shall be always a Christian in future. Porte fears that if you are admitted to the sittings of the Commission to which it had at first agreed, a precedent will be given by which foreign Consuls might claim a similar right on other occasions."

No. 423.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 853. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 22, 1878.*

SULTAN has expressed great indignation at having been suspected of secretly encouraging the Albanians and Bosnians to oppose the decisions of the Congress. His Majesty states that, so far from such having been the case, he has done everything to induce them to accept those decisions, and that he has detained here an Albanian religious Chief of great influence, who had been sent by the Albanians to ask him for support, in order that it might not be said that he approved of their proceedings.

No. 424.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 854.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 22, 1878.*

RUSSIANS will complete evacuation of San Stefano to-day. Turkish brigade has received orders to occupy the place to-morrow. I have informed Admiral, but have not suggested to him withdrawal of the fleet, as I am awaiting your answer to my telegram No. 843.

No. 425.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 22, 1878.*

PLEASE send me at once by post "Instructions to Colonial Governors about Proclamation of Martial Law."

No. 426.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 855.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 23, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Consul Blunt, dated 22nd:—

"I have been informed confidentially that the Porte intends to send a further force of forty battalions to Thessaly and Epirus."

No. 427.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 856.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 23, 1878.*

I RECEIVED late last night a letter from the Russian Ambassador, informing me that the Imperial army having that day quite quitted its positions before Constantinople, he brought the fact to my notice in view of the arrangements agreed to between the Imperial Government and that of Her Majesty for the simultaneous withdrawal of the Russian army and British fleet.

I have informed Admiral, and suggested that he should make preparations for leaving his present anchorage.

I am informed that Russian Ambassador and General Todleben leave to-night for Livadia, to see the Emperor.

No. 428.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1878.*

I LEARN from a confidential source that the return of the 12th, 13th, and 14th Russian Corps d'Armée has been suspended, and that recruits are being sent down to keep these three corps to their full strength.

These corps are additional to those designated for occupation of Bulgaria, and the reason given is that General Todleben fears he might otherwise be overpowered by Turks, whose number and movements at Shumla and Varna are declared to excite suspicion.

No. 429.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 23, 1878, 1:35 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 843, you may request Admiral to withdraw fleet to Artaki, as you propose, as soon as Russians retire from San Stefano.

No. 430.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 23, 1878, 5·30 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 19th instant, Commission for demarkation of Montenegrin frontier has not yet been constituted. British Commissioner is not yet nominated, and Austrian Commissioner is believed to be still at Vienna.

No. 431.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Thomson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 23, 1878, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 13th instant, I conclude that after receiving Viceroy's answer, you will refer home before giving any instructions to Captain Napier as to obtaining satisfaction from local Government of Deregez.

No. 432.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 13, as to administration of Eastern Roumelia, it is very desirable that Porte should administer; but you must do the best you can in that respect, as the Treaty is silent.

Of course you will insist on having administration of finances.

French Government has, I believe, directed its Ambassador to support meeting at Philippopolis.

No. 432*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1136.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 23, 1878.*

IN reply to your telegraphic inquiry of the 18th instant, I authorized your Excellency this day by telegraph to request Admiral Hornby to withdraw the fleet under his command to Artaki, as suggested by your Excellency, so soon as you shall have ascertained that the Russian forces have evacuated San Stefano.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 433.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 24.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 23, 1878.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 12 of the 20th instant regarding the question which has arisen as to the authority with whom the administration of Eastern Roumelia should rest, while the Commission, of which you are a member, is engaged in drawing up the scheme for the organization of the province.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government it is very desirable that the province should be administered during the interval by the Porte. The Treaty, however, contains no specific provision to that effect, and I can only, therefore, instruct you to use your best endeavours to secure an arrangement in that sense.

The administration of the finances, by Article XIX of the Treaty, is distinctly assigned to the Commission acting in concert with the Porte; and you will, of course, insist on the observance of the Treaty in that respect.

I have sent you instructions to this effect by telegraph, and have further informed you that I believe the French Government to have directed their Ambassador to support the proposal that the Commission should hold its sittings at Philippopolis.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 434.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 16. Political.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 23, 1878.*

I AM in receipt of your telegram of the 19th instant, stating that in your opinion it would be hazardous for the Commissioners for the demarcation of the Montenegrin frontier to commence their labours at once, and, in reply, I have this day informed you by telegraph that the Commission has not yet been constituted.

So far as is known to me the Austrian Commissioner is still at Vienna; and no Commissioner has yet been named to act on behalf of this country.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 435.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 120. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, September 12, 1878.*

THE following are the details that I have been able to gather with respect to the taking possession of Batoum by the Russians:—

On the morning of the 6th instant a Russian force, which was at Chakvo under the command of Prince Mirski, moved towards the town, while the Russian squadron anchored there steamed in the same direction.

The Greek and Armenian priests, with cross in hand, and the Molláh, followed by the Mussulmans and Christians in the place, went out to meet the Russians.

Shortly after Dervish Pasha, at the head of three battalions, advanced also to receive Prince Mirski.

The Russians marched in the following order:—

One squadron of Cossacks.

Prince Mirski with Dervish, Generals Oglobio, Murid, Prince Dolgorowski and staff.

Another squadron of Cossacks.

Four battalions of the line of the 41st Division.

Four battalions of Simoraus Chasseurs.

One detachment of Gendarmerie.

One battery of 6 guns.

Total, about 7,000 men.

The two Russian battalions which were at Khelva, and General Komaroff, had not arrived at Batoum.

When the Russians entered the town towards noon, they saluted the Turkish flag with 21 guns, and hoisted afterwards the Russian flag, firing a salute of 101 guns.

Prince Mirski expressed in a few words the generous intentions of the Emperor respecting the welfare and prosperity of the populations of Batoum and of the surrounding country.

Dervish Pasha dined with Prince Mirski on board the Russian flag-ship, and, in the absence of the "Mukburi Surur," returned the dinner to Prince Mirski on board one of the Turkish transports.

When, the day after, Vice-Admiral Arif Pasha arrived at Batoum, salutes for the Commanders-in-chief and the Admirals were exchanged between the Turkish and Russian vessels-of-war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 436.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 791.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 19, 1878.*

THE "Agence Russe" publishes two telegrams from Erzeroum, herewith inclosed, to prove that the departure of the Russian troops from Armenia is being taken advantage of by the Mussulman population to retaliate upon the Christians, who can no longer invoke the protection of the Imperial authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 436.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

NOUS croyons opportun de reproduire, à cette place, les nouvelles que le télégraphe nous apporte d'Erzéroum au sujet de la panique que provoque le départ des troupes Russes de l'Arménie, qui laisse libre cours aux manifestations du fanatisme Musulman.

Télégramme adressé d'Erzéroum à la Gazette "Ischak," 2 Septembre:—

"Les habitants de la ville sont dans la terreur à la pensée du prochain départ des troupes Russes. Le silence du Patriarche de Constantinople après l'adresse qui lui a été envoyée pour implorer son secours a mis les Arméniens au désespoir. La population des campagnes abandonne les travaux des champs et se réfugie en masse dans la ville pour obtenir quelques paroles de consolation. Le Gouverneur emploie tous les moyens pour calmer le peuple. Les Arméniens ont adressé une protestation au Patriarcat pour se plaindre de l'inaction de leurs Chefs religieux. Le bruit s'est répandu récemment que le Chef des Kurdes de Tiesim, nommé Houssein Avni Bey, par dépit contre le Gouvernement Turc, aurait l'intention d'embrasser le culte Arménо-Grégorien avec les 100,000 hommes qui composent sa tribu. Cette rumeur est très-accréditée à Erzéroum. Une Commission Turque est arrivée à Erzindjan. Cette Commission a eu des démêlés désagréables avec Ismaïl Pacha qui s'était refusé à user d'influence sur la bande de Mekhrali pour faire cesser les ernautés de cette dernière sur la population Arménienne. Shérif Bey, Président de cette Commission, a envoyé une plainte à ce sujet à Constantinople."

Autre dépêche, Erzéroum, $\frac{1}{13}$ Septembre, "Golóss":—

"Le départ des troupes Russes d'Erzéroum promet de provoquer un redoublement de fanatisme Musulman. Les menaces proférées par les Turcs en plein bazar commencent même à se réaliser. On cite déjà des actes de violence, dont l'un a été commis dans la nuit du 30 au 31 Août. Les Turcs se sont rués sur une maison où demeurait une famille Arménienne, et ont blessé le propriétaire, lui ont lié les mains et les pieds, et ont fait subir les plus odieux outrages à sa fille, âgée de 12 ans. Hier, toutes les boutiques Chrétiennes étaient fermées. Plusieurs milliers d'Arméniens avaient assiégé la maison de l'Archevêque implorant son appui; ils s'étaient rendus de là à l'hôtel du Gouverneur, mais se sont dispersés ensuite sur le conseil des autorités. Les patrouilles sont renforcées partout sur l'ordre du Gouverneur. Les Arméniens se sont adressés par télégraphe au Patriarche Narzès, au Général Lazarer, et à tous les Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople."

No. 437.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 746.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 718 of the 14th instant, and to your Lordship's despatch No. 594 of the previous day, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a note which I received last night from M. Waddington, and from which your Lordship will see that M. Schefer, who has been appointed French Representative on the Bulgarian Consular Commission, is already at Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 437.

M. Waddington to Mr. Adams.

M. le Ministre, *Paris, le 20 Septembre, 1878.*

PAR votre office du 14 de ce mois, vous avez bien voulu m'annoncer que Mr. Palgrave avait été appelé à remplir les fonctions de Consul-Général d'Angleterre en Bulgarie et de Délégué Spécial du Gouvernement de la Reine pour assister, suivant les dispositions du Traité de Berlin, le Commissaire Russe chargé de diriger l'administration provisoire de cette Principauté. Vous ajoutez que Lord Salisbury considérerait comme désirable que la Commission Consulaire de Bulgarie se réunit aussi promptement que possible. En vous remerciant de votre communication, je m'empresse de vous faire savoir que M. Schefer, Consul-Général désigné pour représenter la France au sein de cette Commission, est dès à présent arrivé à Roustchouk.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) WADDINGTON.

No. 438.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 857.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 634, Grand Vizier is quite ready to accept your advice about appointment of Rustem Pasha as Governor of Eastern Roumelia, but would be glad to know if, in your opinion, Russia would consent to Porte doing so. He seemed not to be certain whether the civil administration of the province was to be in the hands of the Porte until new organization is carried out. It appears to me that this was intended and Russian occupation is only to be for the maintenance of order. I should be glad to have your Lordship's views on this subject.

No. 439.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 858.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 23, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER says that principal difficulty in carrying out Treaty of Berlin as regards Albania consists in the fact that the districts of Gresinve and Vrania are inhabited exclusively by Albanians. As these districts were not asked for by Montenegro and Servia, his Highness wishes to know whether, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, an exchange could be effected, by which territory inhabited by Slavs could be given instead. If this be impossible, his Highness trusts that Her Majesty's Government will be able to defer the delimitation of new frontiers until Porte is able to make arrangements for carrying out the decisions of the Congress. His Highness is, however, very anxious that nothing should be stated which might lead to the impression that the Sultan's authority cannot be enforced in Albania, and which might afford Russia, or any other Power, a pretext for saying that foreign intervention is necessary.

No. 440.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 23, 1878.*

THIS morning, going to Pera, my French colleague was told by M. de Tatischew, an ex-Russian diplomatist, now serving with army, that Russia would not allow Commission to administer province, not even the finances, though stipulated by Treaty.

On my return I found a despatch from Lord Donoughmore, saying that he had

received visit from Prince Dondoukoff, as well as Russian Commissioner. He said that he would oppose English programme, whatever it might be. He called acts of Treaty of Berlin Offenbach comedies and other derisive epithets. It is impossible to reproduce all the extraordinary language used; but he stated his determination not to surrender to the Commission any part, however small, of the control of finances. Personally, he was civil.

He (*sic*) will send these despatches by next messenger.

As regards administration of Eastern Roumelia, contrast Protocols of Berlin, page 72, line 23, with Treaty, Article VI, lines 1 and 2.

French and Austrian Commissioners support me. I think that firm and temperate language may do much with the Russians.

No. 441.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, September 23, 1878.*

CRETANS sent deputation to Athens to consult Government and Cretan Committee as to line they should take in regard to negotiations with Moukhtar. Greek Government advised not to break off, but prolong negotiations to gain time, as rupture between Greece and Turkey was imminent. This advice was adopted by Cretan Committee. Deputation left for Crete 14th instant.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 442.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 23, 1878.*

YESTERDAY Turkish troops evacuated Little Zvornik, now occupied by Servians. Bielina and Tuzla have surrendered without resistance.

Militia called out to reinforce troops on Servian frontier, which numerous refugees are crossing.

Deputation of Bosnians demanding annexation to Servia have presented themselves at the frontier.

No. 443.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret and Confidential.) *Bucharest, September 23, 1878.*

INFORMATION has reached me from a reliable source of the most extraordinary kind, according to which two Russian corps d'armée are to recross the Balkans and two others are to return in their place to Bulgaria from Russia. Commissariat to follow in the same direction, and all sales of stores interrupted round.

No. 444.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 24, 1878.*

RUSSIANS having two Commissioners, Austrian and French Commissioners and myself have requested our Ambassadors to suggest nomination of a second Turkish Commissioner, a Christian. This will, I think, be done.

No. 445.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 859.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 24, 1878.*

AS Admiral Hornby requires a short time for making his arrangements he will leave for Artaki on Saturday morning. I have so informed Russian Ambassador and the Porte.

No. 446.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 860.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 24, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER has informed me Pertow Effendi has been named Imperial Ottoman Commissioner to act with the Consuls of the Great Powers in the provisional administration of Bulgaria, according to the VIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and that he will leave immediately for his post.

No. 447.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 861.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 24, 1878.*

IN the IVth Article of the draft of the Treaty of Peace between Turkey and Russia it is agreed that during occupation by Russian troops of any territories which, under the Treaty of San Stefano and that of Berlin, are to be restored to the Porte, the administration and state of things shall remain the same as they have been since the occupation began, and that the Porte shall take no part whatever in them until territories in question are completely evacuated. Does not this stipulation completely override the evident intention of the Congress as regards the civil and financial administration of Eastern Roumelia? I have called Grand Vizier's attention to it.

No. 448.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 234.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 24, 1878.*

I HAVE received two following telegrams from Serajevo, dated yesterday:—

"Austrians after several encounters yesterday, the 21st instant, at Glasenac, with [force?] estimated at 7,000, reached Rogastenca to-day. Austrian loss over 500. One cannon taken from insurgents."

"Since defeat at Glasenac insurgents dispersing in every direction. Tuzla occupied yesterday and Bilnacs a few days ago. Insurrection apparently breaking up."

No. 449.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, September 24, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 847, your language to the Grand Vizier respecting proposed Circular is entirely approved.

No. 450.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies and Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 24, 1878, 4·45 P.M.*

MAJOR WILSON is appointed British Commissioner for the demarcation of the Servian frontier, and will start at once for Belgrade.

No. 451.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1137.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 24, 1878.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 1,080 of the 30th ultimo, forwarding copy of a letter addressed to you by natives of Cyprus residing in Constantinople.

Your Excellency is authorized to state in reply that Her Majesty's Government have received with satisfaction this evidence that British administration is willingly accepted by the inhabitants of the island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 452.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1141.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 24, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1,116 of the 6th instant, relative to the extent to which the Russian forces stationed before Constantinople have as yet been withdrawn. Under the circumstances reported in that despatch Her Majesty's Government approve your having abstained from making any communication to Admiral Sir G. Hornby for the withdrawal of the British fleet from its present anchorage.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 453.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 506.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 24, 1878.*

I HAVE received your despatches No. 758 and No. 764 of the 3rd and 6th instant, stating the steps you had taken to urge upon the Russian Government the expediency of remitting or suspending the sentence of death passed at Philippopolis on Hadji Arif Agha.

I have to express to you my approval of the representations which you made on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 454.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 507.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 24, 1878.*

YOUR despatch No. 772 of the 11th instant has been received and laid before the Queen, and I have to convey to you my approval of the note which you addressed to M. de Giers on the 10th September, calling the attention of the Russian Government to the circumstances of an outrage committed by Russian troops upon the

inhabitants of a Turkish village, in the vicinity of which the Rhodope Commission was sitting at the time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 455.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 508.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 24, 1878.*

YOUR despatch No. 773 of the 11th September has been received and laid before the Queen, and I have to state to you that I approve the note which you addressed to M. de Giers on the 11th instant, calling the attention of the Russian Government to the cruel treatment to which, according to Mr. Consul Reade's Reports, the Mussulman refugees have been subjected upon their return to their homes in Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 456.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Wilson, R.E.

(No. 2.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 24, 1878.*

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Commissioner to take part in the demarcation of the new frontier assigned to Servia by the Treaty of Berlin, I have to instruct you to proceed without delay to Belgrade, where the Commissioners of the other Powers are already assembled.

The frontier, which it will be the duty of the Commission to settle, is laid down in general terms in Article XXXIV of the Treaty, of which a copy is herewith inclosed for your information and guidance. The discussions which took place in the Congress at Berlin on the subject will be found in the 7th, 8th, 15th, 16th, and 19th Protocols of that Assembly, of which copies are also inclosed herewith.

You will observe that, by Article II of the Treaty, the settlement of the frontiers of Bulgaria is entrusted to the European Commission constituted under that Article. Consequently, in the absence of any Agreement between the Signatory Powers to the contrary, the Commission of which you are a member is charged only with the demarcation of that portion of the new Servian frontier which borders on Turkey proper, leaving to the Bulgarian Boundary Commission the delimitation of the remaining portion, which separates the territory ceded to Servia from the new Principality.

I transmit to you further, for your information and guidance, copy of a letter from General Sir L. Simmons, from which you will perceive that, before leaving Berlin, the members of the Committee employed in the description of the frontiers laid down in the Treaty compared together the tracings on their several maps with the descriptions given in the Treaty. A certified facsimile copy of that portion of the map, so compared by Captain Ardagh, which bears on it the tracing of the new Servian frontier, has been prepared for your use and is inclosed herewith, together with a copy of Captain Ardagh's Memorandum of what passed on the occasion of the comparison.

I have only further to observe that the object of Her Majesty's Government in sending a Commissioner to take part in the work before you has been to contribute, as far as lies in their power, to a complete and impartial settlement of any questions which may arise in regard to the demarcation of the new frontier. They are desirous that a settlement should be arrived at in conformity with the spirit of the Treaty, which shall be fair and satisfactory to both parties, and of such a kind as will obviate the occurrence in the future of irritating questions of detail.

It will be very desirable, for the sake of expedition, that the Commission should settle questions of detail and of minor importance by a vote of the majority. In regard to matters which seem to involve points of substantial importance, you will endeavour to procure the adoption by the dissentient members of such compromise or arrange-

ment as may seem to you equitable and in accordance with the intentions of the Signatory Powers. Should you find it impossible to secure such an agreement, you will arrange with your colleagues either to refer the matter to your respective Governments, or to the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, endeavouring, at the same time, to secure the adhesion of a majority of the Commissioners to the solution which appears to you fair and desirable. In the case of the second of these two courses being adopted, you will not fail to report to me the steps which you have taken.

I inclose copies of a despatch and two telegrams from Her Majesty's Representative at Belgrade, which will give you some particulars as to the state of affairs in regard to the Commission. I should wish you to communicate freely with Mr. Gould upon all matters relating to the proceedings of the Commission, and I also think it would be desirable that, on passing through Vienna, you should place yourself in communication with Her Majesty's Ambassador at that capital, who may be able to give you further information and any advice or assistance of which you may stand in need.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 457.

The Marquis of of Salisbury to Major Wilson, R.E.

(No. 3.) [B.B.]

Foreign Office, September 24, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform you that Lieutenant J. G. F. Ross, of Bladensburgh, of the Coldstream Guards, has been appointed to assist you in your duties as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the Servian frontier.

During the time that you are employed on the business of the Commission you will receive a salary at the rate of 1,000*l.* a-year, and Lieutenant Ross a salary at the rate of 450*l.* a-year, in addition to your regimental pay and your actual travelling expenses, together with such military allowances as you are respectively entitled to by the regulations of the service.

You are authorized to incur such expenses as may be necessary for interpreters, &c., charging the same in your accounts.

You will draw upon the War Department for such moneys as may be required for all these purposes, and will forward your accounts through this Office to be audited by that Department.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 458.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Wilson, R.E.

(No. 5.) [B.B.]

Foreign Office, September 24, 1878.

Sir,

IN the event of the labours of the Commission of which you are a member being interrupted by the winter season before the demarcation of the frontier is completed, it will, no doubt, be necessary that you and your colleagues should return to Belgrade. I should wish you to report to me at once if you see a certain prospect of this contingency, in order that it may be decided whether, under such circumstances, it will not be best that you and Lieutenant Ross should return home, and only resume your duties in the following spring. I trust, however, to your using your best exertions to get the work completed with the least possible delay, and shall be ready to receive any suggestions from you for that purpose which would not entail a material increase of expenditure.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 459.

Vice-Consul Billiotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 121 Political.)

My Lord, *Trebisond, September 13, 1878.*

ON the information furnished by M. Gilbert, the French Consul at Erzeroum, who left that town on the 5th instant, I have forwarded this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following telegram:—

"French Consul arrived from Erzeroum reports that Russian troops were concentrated in town, whose evacuation was to begin on the 9th and end in a few days."

The Russian troops quartered north of Erzeroum had arrived in that town before M. Gilbert's departure. He was informed on the road by a Russian officer that news of the surrender of Batoum having reached the Commander-in-chief on Friday, orders had been given for the evacuation of the place to begin on the following Monday, the 9th. It was expected that it would be ended in about ten days.

One-third of the Russian forces are to proceed to Kars, another third to remain at Soghanli, and the rest to be quartered along the new frontier.

Ismail Pasha, with whom M. Gilbert communicated at Baiburt, informed him that, being unwilling to treat personally with the Russians, he would delegate one of his Generals to take possession of Erzeroum.

Such of the Armenians who have compromised themselves by their conduct towards the Turks were expected to follow the Russians, who do not seem to encourage them to emigrate.

M. Gilbert does not entertain great fear for the safety of the Christians residing in towns, but he thinks that those living in the country may have to suffer at the hands of the Mussulmans, not, however, from a general persecution. Depredations from Kurds are the most serious danger, and all depends on the energy that the Turkish authorities will display.

M. Gilbert reports that after the withdrawal of the Russians from the districts north of Erzeroum, the rumour having spread that Christians had been massacred, two Russian battalions were sent back to protect the inhabitants. However, the Russian officer in command, whom M. Gilbert met returning to Erzeroum, informed him that no massacres had taken place, but that the Turks had threatened to compel the Armenians to divide with them the money which they had gained during the Russian occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILLIOTTI.

No. 460.

Vice-Consul Billiotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 122. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, September 13, 1878.*

I HAVE forwarded this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following telegram:—

"Evacuation of Batoum completed. Dervish Pasha, remaining troops and stores, arrived this morning. Two hundred Turkish soldiers were left at Batoum to accompany 1,200 prisoners hourly expected from Poti."

Nothing whatever has been left at Batoum; even old planks have been removed.

The embarkation of Dervish Pasha was saluted by the firing of guns from the "Muhbari Surur" and the Russian squadron.

I have been told by an eye-witness that the Turkish soldiers had picked up stones which they were throwing behind them when they embarked, cursing the Ghiaurs, and lamenting to have uselessly shed their blood for the defence of a place which was to be given up.

Some companies belonging to the first battalions which were landed here having arrived to-day with the last troops, the average complement of each battalion can be reckoned at between 500 and 600, giving a total of from 10,000 to 12,000 soldiers.

It will only be possible for me to give more accurate information on the Turkish forces when they depart for their final destination.

The men just arrived are cleanly dressed; they had to be seen by the Russians. As it was raining on the 10th, waterproof coats were issued to the men, to their great astonishment. This was also due no doubt to the presence of the Russians. There were large supplies of these coats, with which the poor Turkish soldiers had never been provided during the winter months.

The Turkish cavalry, consisting of about 1,000 horses, is coming overland; they left Batoum about a week ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 461.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 25.*)

(No. 123. Political.)

Trebizond, September 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that General Komaroff, the Commander-in-chief in the Lazistan, arrived at Batoum on the 10th instant with eight battalions of the line belonging to the 38th Division and one battery.

Four other battalions have been echeloned along the Tsuruksoo, at Artwin, Akhal Daba, Borckha, Kobulneri, Kheba, and Adjara Soo.

Sherif Bey, who had joined the Russians, as reported in my despatch No. 67 of the 20th May last, is marching through the Adjara with sixteen battalions, and is expected to reach Batoum in the course of the day.

On the arrival of these forces, the eight battalions that have taken possession of Batoum, under Prince Mirski, and eight others which occupy Makhenajaura, Chakvo, Sikingir, and Tsolooksoo, will join the Erivan army corps, to which they belong.

Two of these battalions, under the command of General Oglobio, began their retreat yesterday; and another battalion, consisting, it is said, of military pupils who had been despatched to parade at the surrender of Batoum, embarked on the 11th for Poti.

There was a review of part of the troops on the 11th, the anniversary of the Emperor's birthday. A salute of 101 guns was fired, and the vessels, which were dressed out in the day, were illuminated in the evening, when a grand dinner was given, in which Dervish Pasha and his staff took part.

The Russian squadron, which consists of the corvettes "Mercure" and "Sohok" and two transports, is under the command of Rear-Admiral Abovousanoff. The corvettes carry each four heavy smooth-bore guns and four breech-loaders, together with one 15-centimetre rifled gun in bow; the transports two rifled guns each.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 462.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 25.*)

(No. 94. Political.)

Canea, Crete, September 17, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of three despatches which I have addressed to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard, viz. (1), stating the coldness of the relations existing between the Imperial Commissioner, Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, and the Governor-General, and the probability of my taking a seat at the deliberations with the Christian Delegates; (2), an abstract of the discussions which have already taken place; and (3), my reasons for supporting the claim of the Christians to a fuller representation in the General Assembly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 462.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Canea, Crete, September 12, 1878.

JUST after posting my last despatch to your Excellency, the Delegates of the General Assembly, nine in number, waited upon the Governor-General Costaki Pasha, who, after a short conversation, sent them with his Secretary to present them to the Imperial Commissioner. His Excellency then appointed the morrow, the 10th instant, to listen to their demands. Meanwhile, the rumour reached me that it was the intention of his Excellency Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha to hold the sittings with the Christian Deputies without the presence of Costaki Pasha, and, in order to clear the matter up, I immediately went to the former, hoping to find that the rumour was unfounded, as in my first interview with him I understood that the Governor-General would assist at the meetings without question. His Excellency told me that his instructions permitted him to act in this matter as he should think fit, and that he and Salim Effendi, who presently joined us, would deliberate alone with the Delegates, Costaki Pasha being called in for his opinion and advice only when they saw fit. I expressed to his Excellency my opinion that the presence of the Vali would contribute materially to a good understanding with the Christian Deputies, who were convinced of his impartiality and justice, while they could not have the same confidence in a stranger.

I then read the Commissioner the opening words of your Excellency's instructions to me, which run thus:—

"The Porte has named Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha to be the Commissioner in Crete for bringing to a settlement, in conjunction with Costaki Pasha, the differences which have arisen between the Turkish authorities of the island and the Christian population."

Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha thereupon remarked that there had evidently been some misunderstanding, for that his own instructions, which were verbal, gave him authority to deal with the claims of the insurgents with or without the co-operation of the Vali, and he added that if I knew all the conduct of Costaki Pasha during his residence in Crete, I should not judge him very favourably, qualifying this opinion, however, by the saving remark that the Vali was doubtless a faithful public servant.

Salim Effendi also chimed in by observing that Costaki Pasha had already failed in his former mission, and that during the last few months he had done nothing to bring about the pacification of the island. It was evident that Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha's ears had been poisoned by the insinuations of certain persons whom he has come into contact with during his short stay here, many of whom are capable of fabricating the blackest calumnies for the gratification for their spite, or to ruin an enemy. It is most deplorable that at the outset of the negotiations a coldness should thus have arisen between the Imperial Commissioner and the person whose tact, uprightness of character, and conciliatory temper, not to mention his long acquaintance with the Cretans, naturally indicated him as the fittest to effect a reconciliation between the Christian population and the Porte. Costaki Pasha alone would, I entertain no manner of doubt, have succeeded in this object; Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha alone may or may not do so. I told the latter that it was plainly my duty to inform your Excellency of the divergence in the instructions forwarded to me and those communicated verbally to himself, and that I should also state my opinion that the Vali's presence at the meetings would greatly facilitate an arrangement. Salim Effendi, who now seemed anxious to fall in with my views, told me that they hoped to come to a satisfactory understanding with the Vali that evening. I nevertheless telegraphed at once to your Excellency in these words:—

"The right of the Vali to assist at the meetings of the Christian Delegates is not admitted by the Commissioner. His Excellency will invite him occasionally. I am of opinion that his constant presence will greatly facilitate a settlement."

Shortly after returning to my house the Christian Delegates called upon me, and keenly expressed their annoyance that Costaki Pasha was not to be present at the meetings, but I encouraged them to hope that in spite of all they had heard his Excellency would be found in their midst. They also earnestly reiterated a wish they had already expressed by writing, viz., that I also should have a seat at the deliberations. I was not quite sure how far my claim to a seat could be supported, or whether a satisfactory arrangement was more likely to be arrived at by my presence than by my absence, since the Delegates not being furnished with full powers would have to

refer all matters in dispute to their constituents, and time would thus allow of my mediation in case a desire was expressed for its exercise. I therefore declined to ask to be admitted to the meetings.

Finding that his Excellency Costaki Pasha's right to be present at the sittings has since been practically admitted, and also that the Christians are still anxious for me to have a seat there, I have to-day sent the following telegram to your Excellency:—"The Vali is present at all the sittings of the Delegates since my interview with the Commissioner. Is it your Excellency's intention that I should be present at the sittings? The Christian Delegates desire it."

September 17th.—On the 13th instant I had the honour to receive the following answer to my telegram:—"10 P.M. Confidential. I have confidentially spoken to the Grand Vizier on the subject of your telegram, touching the relations between Mukhtar Pasha and the Vali. I think it desirable that you should be present at the meetings of the Delegates if the Commissioner has no serious objection. If he has, refer again to me."

I immediately called on Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, telling him that your Excellency considered my presence at the sittings desirable if he had no objection. His Excellency said that he would be glad to see me present at the sittings, but had a difficulty in admitting me until the Porte had given its sanction, which he desired your Excellency to obtain. This answer I telegraphed the same evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 462.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September* 16, 1878.

AS I had the honour to inform your Excellency in my last despatch, the first meeting of the Christian Delegates was to take place on the 10th instant. At that meeting they laid down, as the basis on which their claims would be founded, the following proposition: That all the inhabitants of the island, whatever their religion, are equal before the law, being subject to the same duties and entitled to the enjoyment of the same civil and political rights.

This elementary principle, which has been already conceded to the inhabitants of the entire Empire, gave rise to some discussion. Salim Effendi asked whether the Deputies intended it to cover the further proposition that the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants should be possessed of civil and political rights, in proportion to their respective numbers; and when they avowed that they might hereafter advance a claim somewhat of that nature, they were told that the proposition was, in that sense, inadmissible, equality being conceded to the two religious communities as bodies, but not to each individually.

This was the barren result of the first day's sitting; and at the second, the Deputies proposed that the next General Assembly should occupy itself with forming a system of legislation for Crete, care being taken in its elaboration not to touch the laws regarding marriage and inheritance already in use among the different religious communities. This system, once formed and sanctioned, should not be liable to alteration by Imperial Firmans and Iradés, but whenever any imperfection therein should be exposed by the light of experience, the General Assembly should seek to remedy it. The Commissioner demurred to granting such extensive powers to a Provincial Assembly, as they trenched upon the authority of the Porte; and he added that the system of legislation now in use throughout the Empire was to be completed at an early period by persons competent to deal with so difficult a task. He could not, therefore, sanction their pretension to form a system of legislation specially applicable to Crete. The Delegates objecting that experience warranted them in believing that the delays in completing the contemplated system of legislation would be interminable, and that they had suffered long enough from uncertain and imperfect laws, a middle term was found by his Excellency Costaki Pasha, who suggested that it should be within the competence of the General Assembly to recommend such additions to, or modifications of, the Civil and Criminal Codes of Law now in vigour, as seemed adapted to local usage and as experience justified, provided always that such additions or modifications contained nothing that attacked the sovereign rights of the Sultan, or was opposed to the fundamental principles of justice.

These might then be submitted for the Porte's sanction, and it was further added by Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha that, if some were rejected, the Assembly would have the right to submit them again for the consideration of the Government.

At the third sitting the same subject was resumed, and it was finally agreed that the system of commercial, civil, and criminal legislation already existing should remain in force, barring such slight modifications as the Assembly might suggest. But the Delegates objecting that the civil and criminal codes of procedure did not exist, while that regulating commercial procedure was most imperfect, they contended for the right of the Assembly to draw up systems of procedure for the local Courts of Law, to be afterwards submitted to the Porte for approval. To this proposition the Commissioner agreed.

The next question discussed regarded the vexed question of the composition of the Administrative Councils. The Delegates demanded that the members to be elected for the chief and district Councils should bear a proportion to the relative number of the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants, while all the official members should be withdrawn.

After some conversation, it was finally decided that all the official members should be excluded from seats in these Councils, thus leaving the Christian and Mussulman members equal.

There then came on for discussion the question as to the formation of the General Assembly, and the manner of electing its members. The Delegates contended that, as a representative body, it ought accurately to reflect the views of the entire population, which it could not do unless its members bore a proportion corresponding to that of the inhabitants of the several electoral districts. They proposed that all the inhabitants should vote for the members allotted to each district without distinction of creed, the outcome giving the aggregate vote of the constituency. I may remark, by the way, that some districts would thus return Christian Deputies exclusively. Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha declined to yield to this pretension, and talked of withdrawing the concession already made in the matter of the Administrative Councils if they persisted in urging it. Thus closed the third sitting.

The fourth took place on the 14th instant. The Delegates had in the interval consulted with the National Assembly, who are gathered at a spot some ten miles from this town. They there drew up a new method of conducting the elections, conceived in the following manner:—Crete being divided into twenty electoral districts, three of which, Canea, Rethymo, and Candia are urban constituencies, and the rest rural ones, all returning four members each, they proposed that in the districts where the Christian element predominated three members should be allotted to the Christians and one to the Mussulmans. Where the Mussulman element was in the ascendant the rule should be reversed; while, where the population was pretty equal, each community should be equally represented. Sphakia, which is a purely Christian district, should return four members as before.

By this plan the three towns and one rural district would each return three Mussulmans and one Christian, two rural districts would divide their votes equally, while the remaining thirteen (Sphakia being eliminated) would return three Christians and one Mussulman. The result would give twenty-nine Mussulman members and fifty-one Christian, less than two-thirds of the entire eighty.

The Commissioner rejected the scheme, but offered instead to compromise matters by subdividing a district, one-half of which being purely Christian should return four Christian members, thus giving a majority of eight to the Christians. This concession was refused, as it did not admit the principle of equality contended for. The meeting was then adjourned.

At all the sittings conducted thus far the Sphakians have not been represented. As your Excellency is aware, they have refused for some time past to act with the rest of the Cretans on account of some trifling subject of dispute. When I invited the Cretan General Assembly to elect Deputies to represent them, I made a similar invitation to the Sphakians, to which they replied by gravely proposing that the Imperial Commissioner should meet their Deputies at the little town of Sphakia on the southern coast, and that I should likewise be present. This extravagant proposal I answered by urging them to lose no time in sending their representative to act in concert with the rest, but hitherto none has appeared. Their failure to attend may be productive of future embarrassment, as I believe they have the intention of claiming special privileges.

September 15th.—The fifth sitting, which took place yesterday, was spent in a vain attempt to persuade the Christian Delegates to abandon their scheme of suffrage and to

accept instead the slight concession made by the Commissioner. After the sitting was over his Excellency came to see me, and, amongst other remarks, said that what constituted the gravity of yielding to the demand of the Christians was the circumstance that by the Treaty of Berlin laws similar to those accorded to Crete should be introduced into other parts of the Empire. It was precisely this consideration which made me feel all the importance of obtaining for the Cretans the fullest recognition of the principle of popular representation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 402.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, September 16, 1878.

Sir,

AS your Excellency will have seen from my last despatch, the Christian Delegates proposed at their last sitting a system of voting for the members of the General Assembly based on that already existing, but with the votes distributed in each district in proportion to the relative numbers of the two religious communities. On the morning of that day a deputation from the General Assembly called upon me and handed me a letter from that body, in which they complained that their proposition that all Cretans, without distinction of religion, were equal before the law had been practically rejected, inasmuch as the system of universal suffrage founded on that proposition had been refused. The General Assembly had now authorized their Delegates to propose a new system of voting, which is explained in my despatch above referred to, and they trusted that by my mediation it would be accepted

Before that day's meeting took place I called on his Excellency Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, and reminded him that I had on two or three previous occasions expressed to him my opinion that all the Cretans had an equal right to representation in the General Assembly. I now learnt that the insurgent leaders had consented to abandon their former system of suffrage, which I considered open to objection, and had substituted for it another which they were going to propose in that day's sitting, and which I thought was consistent with justice, and I hoped his Excellency would consent to its adoption. Finding him unwilling to yield, I begged the favour of an interview with him that evening, when there would be more time for the full consideration of the subject. The result of that day's sitting is given elsewhere.

The same evening I called on his Excellency and told him that I regretted the decision he had arrived at, for that the Christians attached a supreme importance to the recognition by the Government of their equality with the Mussulmans on this capital question of representation, and that I could not but confess that they had right on their side. I reminded his Excellency that they had shown a spirit of conciliation in not insisting on their claim to a plurality of votes in the election of the members of the Administrative Councils, and to expect them to give way in the present case was unreasonable. His Excellency then proposed to create another electoral district where the Christians predominated, which should return four more members in addition to the four already granted in that day's sitting, thus giving them, with Sphakia, a majority of twelve. To this I replied that I considered no mere palliatives would satisfy them; that they contended for a principle, and that, as they had applied to me for my mediation, I came to his Excellency to offer it and to beg him to accept the last proposal of the Delegates. The Commissioner acknowledged the justice of the claim of the Delegates in the district, but denied the policy of granting it, alleging that if more power were accorded to the Christians they would use it to vex and harass the Mussulmans in those country districts where the latter were in a minority with the object of getting rid of them, and that there would be a gradual emigration of his co-religionists from the island. I told his Excellency I was glad to see that he recognized the justice of the claim advanced by the Christians, but I assured him that his opposition to it, notwithstanding that recognition, was founded altogether on a false assumption, for I could assert, from a long acquaintance with the Cretans, that in the country districts Christians and Mussulmans were free from fanaticism, which was a characteristic of the town populations, from certain leading Mussulmans of which his Excellency had doubtless received his false impressions. Finding me unflinching in my determination to support the demand of the Christian Delegates, Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, whose strong sense of justice would, I am

persuaded, have induced him to yield to my arguments were it not for the pernicious influence exercised over him by certain local magnates, consented to refer the matter to the Porte, while I, on my part, should telegraph to your Excellency. This I did early the following morning in these terms:—

The right to vote for the members of the General Assembly in proportion to their numbers is insisted on by the Christian Delegates. The system of voting proposed by them, by which every district will return at least one Mussulman member, gives them a majority of less than two-thirds. A rupture is imminent unless this concession is made, and an appeal has been made to me. I have told the Commissioner that I consider their demand to be just, and that I must support it. I look upon the pacification of the island as assured if this concession is made. We agreed that his Excellency should refer to the Porte, and I to your Excellency.

The same morning I had an interview with the Delegates, whom I informed that the disputed point regarding the right of voting had been referred to the Porte and to Her Majesty's Ambassador, and that I was hopeful of a solution in their favour. I told them I could not have supported their previous proposal, as by it the votes of the Mussulman minorities of six or seven districts would have been swamped by the Christian votes, and that it was a cherished principle in civilized States to protect the rights of minorities. By their last proposal this evil was obviated, and every district would be fairly represented. I may here remark that in all my interviews with the Delegates I have found them extremely conciliatory, and desirous of arriving at a peaceful solution of the present dispute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—I find that the wording of my telegram is open to misunderstanding, for in saying that the Christians would have by their scheme of voting a majority of less than two-thirds, I meant that they would form less than two-thirds of the entire assembly.

T. B. S.

No. 403.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received September 26.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 25, 1878.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that the following telegram has this day been received from Vice-Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby:—

"*Prinkipo, September* 24, 8 P.M.

"In consequence of communication from Ambassador requesting me to move squadron on the 28th from Princes Island, I shall sail for Artaki on Saturday unless I receive orders to the contrary. Am endeavouring to arrange telegraphic station there."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 404.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, September 24, 1878.

BARON OSTEN SACKEN tells me that the sentence of death passed on Hadji Arif Agha has been commuted.

No. 465.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September 24, 1878.*

IT appears that both Austria and Italy have made known their readiness to address Prince of Roumania as His Royal Highness in future. A similar act of courtesy expected of Powers.

No. 466.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 862.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 25, 1878.*

RUSSIA has urged upon Porte expediency of at once surrendering Podgoritza in order to satisfy Prince of Montenegro of its desire to put into execution Treaty of Berlin with regard to Principalities. Prince of Montenegro has also telegraphed twice to the Grand Vizier urging immediate surrender of that place and Spuz. Grand Vizier, in view of information received from the authorities in Albania, feels great difficulty in finding means of complying with these demands.

No. 467.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 25, 1878, 5·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 848, Servian Commissioner has started. Express our regret for unavoidable delay; we shall not object to Commission beginning its labours without him.

No. 468.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 851, continue to urge immediate nomination of Rustem Pasha. Her Majesty's Government believe Congress intended Commission to administer Eastern Roumelia pending re-organization; but Russian Plenipotentiaries refused to consent to express stipulation for fear of authorizing collisions with Russian military force. Her Majesty's Government would be in favour of administration being assigned either to Commission or Porte.

No. 469.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1146.) *Foreign Office, September 25, 1878.*

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 848 of the 21st instant, stating that you were informed by the Russian Ambassador that all the members of the Commission for the delimitation of the Servian frontier were now assembled at Belgrade with the exception of the British Commissioner, I informed your Excellency this day, by telegraph, that Major Wilson, the English Commissioner, had started for Belgrade.

I requested your Excellency, at the same time, to state to Prince Lobanoff that Her Majesty's Government much regretted the unavoidable delay which had occurred in Major Wilson's appointment; and I added that Her Majesty's Government would not object to the other Commissioners commencing their labours at once without waiting for Major Wilson's arrival, should it be thought advisable for them to do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 470.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1148.) [B.B.]
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 25, 1878.*

I HAVE this day instructed you to continue your representations to the Porte in favour of the immediate nomination of Rustem Pasha as Governor of Eastern Roumelia.

With regard to the administration of the province, concerning which you state in your telegram No. 851 of the 21st instant that the Grand Vizier is anxious to ascertain the views of the Signatory Powers, I have informed you that Her Majesty's Government believe the Congress to have intended that the Commission constituted under Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin should administer Eastern Roumelia pending the completion of the scheme for its reorganization. The Russian Plenipotentiaries, however, refused to consent to any express stipulation to this effect for fear of authorizing collisions with the Russian occupying force.

Her Majesty's Government would themselves be favourable to the administration being in the hands either of the Commission or of the Porte, as may be found most convenient and acceptable to other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 471.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 561.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 25, 1878.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram which he has received from Safvet Pasha, of which the following is the substance:—

It commences by referring to the outbreaks in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and certain localities bordering on Servia and Montenegro, by which the execution of some of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin has been impeded or delayed; and observes that populations having no affinity to two States to which they are to be united, and for the most part no community with them of origin or religion, have resolved to oppose annexation by force, and have defied, and even victimized, the legitimate authorities. In Bosnia, it is asserted, the Turkish Governor had no time to influence the people, and all its efforts failed to prevent sanguinary conflicts with the Austrian army of occupation. But the Porte could easily show, if necessary, that it had done all that circumstances would allow to prevent the explosion, and had at least succeeded in averting the spread of the movement into further districts.

The telegram next alludes to the agitation against annexation in the portions of Northern Albania to be ceded to Servia and Montenegro, which culminated in the murder of Mehemet Ali, who had been sent by the Porte to calm the minds of the inhabitants, and to induce them to submit to the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin. It promises the prompt chastisement of the murderers and steps to ensure the earliest possible execution of the provisions respecting the territorial exchange.

It concludes by saying that Safvet Pasha is above all anxious to prove that the Turkish Government has not failed to observe any of its international duties, and has steadily applied itself to the execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin; that if the result has not been commensurate with its efforts, it is in no way responsible for the failure; that time alone could have enabled it to avert the dangers and avoid the unfortunate conflicts, but that time was wanting; finally, that it would be a profound injustice to reproach it with difficulties which were inherent in the object of which the realization was sought; that it is conscious of its own loyalty, of which it could give, if required, the most convincing proofs; and hopes that the Powers will put faith in its declarations and in the evidence of facts.

I should wish your Excellency to ascertain whether a similar telegram has been communicated to Count Andrassy by the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, and, if not, to acquaint him with the substance of the above.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 472.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 511.)

Foreign Office, September 25, 1878.

Sir,

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to me the Memorandum, of which a copy is inclosed herewith, conveying a request on the part of the Russian Government that the Powers, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, should impress upon the Porte the expediency of giving orders for the evacuation of Podgoritza without further delay.

M. de Bartholomei has been informed in reply that instructions have been sent to Sir H. Layard to urge immediate compliance with the Treaty in regard to this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 473.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 18. Political.)

Foreign Office, September 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 92, Political, of the 8th instant, relative to the petitions received by you from the Christian inhabitants of Crete, praying that the island may be placed under British protection, and I have to express to you my approval of the replies which you have made to the petitioners.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 474.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 26. Political.)

Adrianople, August 15, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Russo-Bulgarian Major, Hadji Mikhail, whose scandalous abuse of his office as Superintendent of Police I had occasion to report in my despatch to your Lordship No. 20 of the 17th June, was suspended from his post about four or five weeks ago, and, after undergoing a lengthened examination on various charges, was definitely superseded two days ago. He was found guilty of having embezzled various sums levied by him as fines, and of having been concerned in a robbery committed by the zaptiehs under his command in the house of Rifaat Effendi, one of the principal Turkish inhabitants of this town. The last-named matter may safely be held to represent many others of the same kind, inasmuch as a domiciliary visit, which was made at the house of the accused official, resulted in the discovery of a quantity of jewellery, plate, and articles of value carried off by him and his myrmidons from pillaged Mussulman houses. No steps have meanwhile been taken, so far as I am aware, for the restoration of the plundered property to its owners. Other complaints have been brought against the ex-Superintendent by non-Mussulmans; and it appears probable that the examination of these will serve to delay for an indefinite period the passing of judgment upon him; nor, if any punishment be ultimately awarded, is it likely to be of a severe character, to judge by the fact that Hadji Mikhail has been allowed, during the course of his trial, to appear in public as usual, attended by his orderlies. I may mention, as showing the estimate of the existing *régime* which has been formed by the public, that it is taken for granted here that the real object of this prosecution is merely to make the robber disgorge most of his plunder for the benefit of Russian officials.

With reference to the ill-treatment of the inmates of the public prisons, I shall here report a circumstance which occurred shortly before the date of my above-mentioned despatch, but which did not come to my knowledge till afterwards. The facts have been related to me by a Greek lady, who was an eye-witness of them. One morning the lady in question saw a party of four or five Turkish refugees being conducted by a police officer and some zaptiehs to a police-station which adjoins the house in which she resides. Soon afterwards the zaptiehs came out and began cutting sticks from some trees in front of the station. One of them called out, "Cut more sticks. There are eleven of us in all." They then re-entered the station with a bundle of sticks, and presently she heard a noise of rapid strokes, accompanied by cries for mercy in Turkish. As the lady's husband was not at home she ran down herself and went into the courtyard of the station, where she found an infirm, white-bearded old Turk, who had been laid down on his face, and who was being beaten by the whole party of zaptiehs as fast as they could lay on the blows. The police officer meanwhile had the grace to stand outside the door whilst this was going on. On the indignant remonstrances of the lady the officer directed his men to leave off, and he condescended to explain that the Turks were accused of making cartridges. He promised, however, that this punishment, for an offence which had yet to be proved, should not be renewed. On the following day, seeing an old Turkish woman go into the station and come out again after a time, the lady called her in and questioned her. The woman said she had come to beg for the release of her husband, one of the accused men, and added that the zaptiehs consented to let him go, but only upon payment of a medjid (3*s.* 4*d.*), a sum she could not command, "for," said she, "I am quite destitute, and have not even one para left."

Soon afterwards the Turks were transferred elsewhere, and what further became of them is not known.

I may here report the following further cases bearing on the behaviour of the Russian police at Adrianople, some being in the shape of active misconduct, and others in that of the systematic inaction in the performance of their duties, which I have had occasion to point out in more than one previous despatch. It will be seen that all these occurrences, except the two first, are of comparatively recent date.

About the end of April a party consisting of three married women, a girl aged 12, and an old man, all Turks, were strolling among the gardens in the outskirts of Adrianople; they came upon two rural gendarmes, who, driving the rest of the party away, seized one of the women and the young girl, and outraged them both. No show of redress was afforded in this case. In connection with it the following further incident, one by no means of an unusual kind, was brought to my knowledge:—The nearest male relative of the girl, who resided at a neighbouring village, came to town to prosecute this affair. On the road, a few miles from Adrianople, he and his companion, an old Turk, perceived a man, wearing the uniform and badge of the native Christian police corps, engaged in robbing a Turkish lad, who was conveying a donkey-load of straw to market. The policeman then turned his attention to the new comers, and robbed them also of such clothes as were worth taking, as well as of the few piastres they had on them. In, this matter, likewise, the Russian authorities took no steps whatever.

The case next in order of date is a very grave one. It is not publicly known, and I only learnt it several weeks after it is stated to have occurred. Although I cannot absolutely vouch for the facts, the source from which I obtained them, and the manner in which they were related, leave no reasonable doubt on my mind as to their truth. My immediate authority is a perfectly trustworthy person, who learnt the circumstances from one of the policemen employed, who is well known to him as an honest man, and who accompanied his statement with expressions of deep disgust, exclaiming, "Surely such a rule of tyranny and wrong as this never was!" One day about the end of May, said this man, zaptiehs were hastily told off from each police station in the town, and, under injunctions of strict secrecy, were marched to a spot near the Tundja, on the road to Yamboli. There they found the bodies of twenty-five Turkish refugees, who had left the day before on their return to their homes at the latter place, and were massacred when they had got a few miles on the way. The zaptiehs, who had been provided with the necessary implements, were made to dig graves and to bury the bodies. The informant was unable to say who were the authors of this foul deed. The action of the Russian authorities in hushing up the matter, instead of seeking out and punishing the guilty parties, is of a piece with their uniform and systematic denial of justice for offences committed against Mussulmans by Christians. It is certain that a second party of refugees, who were to have started a day or two after, provided, like the first, with Russian passports for Yamboli, were ordered to defer their departure. It was not till yesterday that any Turks were finally allowed to return to that place. Several hundred then left by rail, a squad of Russian soldiers accompanying them.

The inhabitants of the Turkish village of Malkotch, twelve hours north-east of Adrianople, who did not quit their homes on the approach of the Russian army, have,

as usual, been plundered of almost all their cattle by the Bulgarians, and as these attack all who endeavour to go outside the village, they have been unable to gather in their harvests. It is needless to add that the crops have been appropriated by their Christian neighbours. In addition to these proceedings, on the 10th of June a party of Bulgarians kidnapped from the village a Turk possessing some means, and two days afterwards sent in to his family one of his ears, which they had cut off, demanding 12,000 piastres as ransom. The villagers sent 2,000 piastres, which was all they could collect; but the Bulgarians sent another message, threatening that, unless the remaining 10,000 piastres were paid, they would destroy the village. The villagers represented the matter to the officer in command of a detachment stationed at Gabilar, half an hour from Malkotch; but the only comfort they received from that quarter was the advice that they should find the sum demanded, when he, the officer, would provide a soldier to accompany their messenger, and ascertain whether the kidnapped man was still alive. The villagers then dispatched a deputation to Adrianople; but these people were still without an answer a fortnight after they had given in their petition to the Russian authorities, and, I believe, they ultimately returned home as they came. The kidnapped man was, by last accounts, still missing.

On the 15th July a party of eight Turks left Adrianople for the village of Erikler, near Kirk Kilissa. They had with them a pair of buffaloes and a pair of oxen. They were joined on the road, near Kara-Yussoufkar, by a party of six Bulgarians, supposed to be from that village, three being on horseback, who carried firearms, and three on foot armed with hatchets and clubs. After a time the Bulgarians fell upon the unarmed Turks, and, besides robbing them of their money and clothes, and of four head of cattle which they were taking along with them, killed one man with a hatchet and wounded and beat the others most savagely with hatchets, knives, and clubs. Several had their limbs broken, and two were unable to move from the spot till next day. The others returned to town at once, covered with blood, and laid their case before the authorities. The police, instead of directing their researches to the suspected Bulgarian village of Kara-Yussoufkar, contented themselves with arresting, on no grounds whatsoever, four Greeks from Pelva, a village seven hours from the scene of the outrage. Upon the wounded Turks declaring that they did not recognize any of their assailants among the men arrested, the Russian police desisted from any further action in the matter. About ten days after the event one of the Turks recognized two of the stolen cattle as they were being driven into the town. He at once gave notice to the nearest police-station, and, although the cattle were still within sight, the officer in command refused to move in the matter, observing that "Such things are not worth noticing." I may here mention that the same village of Erikler, and that of Ehnodjik in its neighbourhood, have within the last few days been the scene of outrageous proceedings on the part of a detachment of Cossacks lately quartered there. The inhabitants of those villages did not for the most part quit their homes on the retreat of the Turkish army, and the Russians had omitted to summon those remaining to give up their arms. When the demand was made on the arrival of the detachment, those who had weapons, to the number of fourteen persons, at once gave them up. These men were fined 10,450 piastres, and many others were beaten on suspicion of concealing arms. One man, named Mehmed Ali Pehlivan, besides being savagely flogged with whips by Cossacks, had his face injured through his head being kicked against the stony ground on which he was laid by the Captain in command, who, moreover, struck his spurs into the side of the prostrate man, covering him with blood. Although no arms were found in the possession of this man, he was fined two liras all the same. No notice has yet been taken of the petitions on these matters sent in to the authorities here.

On the 17th July, Rushid Aga, a Turkish landowner, sent his steward, a Turk, to his farm at Kukuller, a Bulgarian village four hours from Adrianople, provided with a paper from the Russian authorities assigning one-half of Rushid Aga's harvested crops to himself and the other half to the Bulgarian villagers. This, as in every other instance, proved a dead letter. Moreover, as the steward, a day or two after his arrival, was sleeping at a mill belonging to his master, a Bulgarian of the village, named Yovan, son of Petro, struck him a murderous blow on the back of the head with a club. As the Turk rose, Yovan struck him again on the lower part of the spine. At this moment, Rushid Aga's miller, a Bulgarian, came out and the assassin ran off. The miller placed the injured man in a cart and brought him to Adrianople, where he died two days afterwards. He was able to name the murderer before he expired, and, the miller having also denounced him, he was arrested. He was, however, released again immediately on payment of a fine of two liras. Rushid Aga has

since seen and spoken to the assassin, who was pleased to express his regret at the lawless state of things now prevailing, but added, by way of apology, that "the Bulgarians were encouraged by the Russians to do these things." However unfounded this statement may be, it is a patent and incontestable fact that the Russian authorities give at least their tacit assent to the abominable deeds still daily perpetrated by the Bulgarians on the defenceless Mussulmans.

I might say the same as regards cases of murder and murderous assaults by Bulgarians on Greeks, of which there have been several of late where the victims were persons of a certain standing, and where no measures have been taken to bring the offenders to justice.

In cases where Greeks are the offenders and the victims are Turks, as I have already pointed out in previous Reports, a certain difference of treatment is observable. I shall here cite some cases in point.

The few farmsteads and other buildings belonging to Turkish landowners in this neighbourhood which had been left standing have now been, I believe without exception, destroyed. Among the last so treated was a farm belonging to Refik Bey at Akhir-Kioï, a village two hours from Adrianople, which was burnt by the Bulgarian villagers on the 22nd July. The portion of the crops nominally assigned to Rifaat Effendi at Tatar-Kioï, another village at the same distance from town, were completely pillaged by the Bulgarians there on the same day. No steps whatever have been taken in these matters by the Russian authorities either to punish the offenders or to indemnify the victims. They have, on the other hand, acted differently as regards two large mills close to the town, the one belonging to Shakir Bey and the other to Mustafa Bey, which were destroyed on the 28th July by the Greeks of the neighbouring village of Avariz. The first of these proprietors, a venerable old man of 85, had recourse at first to the Bulgarian official who has been doing duty as Superintendent of Police during the suspension of Major Hadji Mikhail, imploring him to stop the work of demolition whilst it was yet in progress, as the income from the mill was his and his family's only remaining means of support. The old man received for answer the almost incredible assertion that the local police could not act in the matter because the mill in question (which is situated on the very outskirts of Adrianople) was within the jurisdiction of Slimnia. When, however, Shakir Bey succeeded later in obtaining an audience of the Governor of Adrianople his application was received more favourably, for General Lipinsky gave orders that the destroyed mills should be rebuilt at the expense of the Greeks of Avariz, who have, moreover, been fined for their offence.

I feel bound to add my conviction, derived from what I have seen of General Lipinsky myself, and from the opinion entertained of his Excellency by a public which has in general little sympathy for Russia, that in according justice in this last case the Governor has but acted in conformity with his own feelings. I happen to know that on one occasion, when a number of Turks were brought to Adrianople in chains by the Christians of Démotica, General Lipinsky could not restrain his indignation at the sight, and he exclaimed, "Here no doubt are some more of these poor inoffensive Turks unjustly accused by Greek and Bulgarian rascals." He then ordered the chains to be struck off and the men to be treated with every leniency pending an inquiry into the case. I believe it to be impossible for any person who has had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the officers of the Russian army to doubt that generous feelings such as these are very generally shared among them, and I may further say that those who by their position are more or less at liberty to say what they think are often heard to express their shame and sorrow at the state of things tolerated under the Russian name. A foreign resident here conversing lately on this subject with a Russian superior officer recapitulated a series of misdeeds and wrongs of the kind recorded in this despatch. The officer replied, "I cannot say much, Sir, for your information." "How so?" asked the other. "Because," was the reply, "many other things have happened worse than any you mention, and which you would doubtless have alluded to had you known them." There are grounds for believing that this remark referred to the atrocities committed in the Hasskioï district which have been brought to light by the International Commission, and which had remained unknown to the public on this side of the Russian lines operating against the Rhodope.

The particular cases which I have noted above are doubtless but a tithe of those occurring in various parts of the country, and especially in the remoter districts. Everything points to the conclusion that higher authorities than those charged with the administration of this province are responsible for the existing misrule, and that

the latter are hardly free to depart even in the way of a mitigation of injustice from the line of conduct which has been prescribed to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 475.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 27. Political.) [B.B.]

Adrianople, August 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I REGRET to inform your Lordship that a number of Turkish villages lying to the north-east of Adrianople, some on this side of the boundary line of Eastern Roumelia and some beyond it, have lately been subjected to pillage, bloodshed, and violence of every kind by the Christian inhabitants of the same districts.

The names of thirteen such villages have been reported to me; but, as it is only from a few of the number that fugitives have been able to reach this, other villages will probably have to be added to the list.

The majority of the Mussulman population in that part of the country kept to their homes on the approach of the invading army. Squads of Russian troops were distributed among the villages there, and beyond the carrying off of more or less of their cattle by the Cossacks and by their Christian neighbours the Turkish peasants had not, as a rule, much to complain of. On the 10th instant the troops in question were withdrawn in order to assist at the farewell review at San Stefano, and it was upon their retirement that the Christians fell upon the defenceless Turks.

At Elemenli, a mixed village of twenty-five Bulgarian and twenty Turkish houses, the Christians behaved well, and, so long as the Russian squad quartered there remained, the Turks suffered no molestation beyond the loss of some of their cattle. On the night after the departure of the soldiers a party of six armed Bulgarians, four on horseback and two on foot, made a descent on the Turkish quarter. The Bulgarians of the village recognized among them two men from Evrenli, and two from Muradli. One of the others, who was on horseback, wore a Russian military cap. The party carried off six head of cattle. The Turkish herdsman in charge, who was armed with one of the two pistols which the villagers were allowed to retain for the protection of their live stock, fired at the marauders, but without effect. The latter, returning the fire, killed the Turk. On the next afternoon another party of twenty or thirty Bulgarians came and carried off all the remaining Turkish cattle. They repeated their visit in the evening, whereupon all the Turkish women and children fled from the village, and my informant, who left at this juncture, does not know what further happened there.

Odjak-Kioï, a Turkish village of twenty-five houses, was attacked on the same night by a party of about twenty-five Christians, of whom ten or twelve were recognized as Greeks from Buyuk-Boghalik and Kutchuk-Boghalik, and eight as Bulgarians from Pasha-Kioï and Dérémahallé. The assailants shot one man, Menishoglu Khalil, a refugee from Yeni-Beyli. Three men, one of them belonging to the village and the others refugees from Pasha-Kioï, were wounded with yataghans and firearms. One of the attacking party, who proved to be a Greek from Buyuk-Boghalik, named Tufektchi Christo, was killed, as the informants now here allege, by one of his own party in a *mêlée* which took place in the dark. The assailants then left without further mischief, and the Turkish villagers sent notice to Adrianople of what had occurred. The same party returned next day and carried off all the good cattle, to the number of eighty-seven head. On the day following a detachment of twenty Cossacks arrived from Adrianople. A squad of three men was left at the village, which has not been molested since. None of the plundered cattle has, however, been restored to the owners, and the villagers have not the means, therefore, of threshing their corn, or of bringing it in from the fields.

Gaïbilar, a Turkish village of 180 houses, was also attacked on the night following the departure of the Russian squad stationed there by a party of twenty-three Bulgarians, who carried off fifty-four head of cattle. On the following day a message was sent by the Bulgarians to Gaïbilar to the effect that they were 200 strong, and that the Turks must give them 150 liras. The Turks asked for a delay of three days, and in the meantime sent notice to the authorities here. It is reported

that a large party of Bulgarians, said to be conscripts, or young men on their way to be drawn for the "National Army," have since made a descent on the village, and extorted from each inhabitant singly all the money they were able.

The Turkish quarter of Sary-Danishmend, a village containing fifty Mussulman and five Bulgarian houses, was attacked four days after the departure of the Cossacks quartered there. The troops had at the beginning carried off thirty out of seventy pair of draught cattle, and the Turks, fearing to lose the rest, had committed all but eight pair to the care of the Bulgarians of Vaïssal. The attacking party consisted of fifty or sixty Bulgarians from the same village of Vaïssal, and from Tatavlar, joined by others from Sary-Danishmend itself. These pillaged the Turkish houses, beat the men, and outraged seven married women and one girl. The girl, aged 13, was violated under revolting circumstances by three men, and the father so cruelly beaten that he is now under treatment in hospital here. Three other men are in the same case, and one woman had her arm pierced with a yataghan. The Bulgarians left in the morning, and all the Turkish inhabitants of the village with the exception of eight families came away next day, and, reaching Adrianople in safety, gave in a petition to the authorities.

The above are the only cases respecting which I have been able to obtain reliable details.

The following villages are also said to have been the scene of similar disorders:—

Toptchilar and Ermeni-Mahallesi, treated in the same way as Gaïbilar.

Petcho-Mahallesi, pillaged, and some men killed and women outraged.

Hadji-Danishmend, pillaged, and some houses burnt.

Erikler (the village mentioned in my despatch No. 26 of the 15th instant as the scene of outrageous proceedings on the part of the Cossacks' detachment stationed there), Keshilik, and Malkoteh sacked. The inhabitants are reported to have fled to the mountains.

Yumruk-Kaya and Beleyren, no particulars.

The only means by which I could obtain more complete information regarding these events would be by visiting the scene of their occurrence; but I hesitate to do so before receiving the sanction of Her Majesty's Ambassador, to whom I have also reported on this subject.

In the meanwhile, there is reason to believe that the troops despatched there by the Russian authorities have put a stop to these outrages. As usual, however, nothing is heard of as to restitution of the plundered property or punishment of the guilty parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 476.

Acting Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 28. Political.)

Adrianople, August 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 26th instant a party of Bulgarians from the village of Mandritza, one and a half hour south-west of Orlakioï, attempted a raid on the insurgent territory. This provoked reprisals, and on the following day the insurgents made a descent on Mandritza, and captured it. They have also re-taken Plavou, which they had evacuated some time back, and have occupied one or two other villages, whose names I have not yet ascertained. It is not yet known whether any of the inhabitants were killed; but part of them found time to escape before the arrival of the insurgents. About forty fugitive families have arrived here from the above-mentioned places, and also from Orlakioï. Six Bulgarians, who had taken part in the raid, were brought in yesterday under arrest. Meanwhile, three battalions of infantry and a field battery were dispatched from this towards the scene of action yesterday, and these have been followed by two more battalions to-day.

On the 23rd instant the Greek quarter of Pungia, at Demotica, was set on fire in five places, and sixty houses were destroyed. The act is attributed to revenge for the destruction of Turkish farms and other property; and the son of Hadji Shakir Boy, a notable of Demotica, has been arrested on suspicion. It is reported to-day that a fresh

act of incendiarism took place again last night, and that disturbances ensued in which many lives were lost. This last news, however, requires confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 477.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, September 5, 1878.*

AS I had the honour to inform your Lordship by my telegram of the 2nd instant, recorded in my despatch No. 148 of the same date, the Servian Government were completely taken by surprise when Prince Wrede, the Austrian Agent here, notified to them, by the order of his Government, the appointment of an International Commission, composed of Delegates from all the Great Powers, to delimitate the new Turco-Servian frontier.

They were under the impression that the matter was to be treated directly between them and the Porte, no mention having been made of any such Commission in the Treaty of Berlin, and the nomination of Mehemed Ali Pasha as Turkish Boundary Commissioner, coupled with the request he had addressed to them through Her Majesty's Government to name at once a Delegate to meet the General Officer he had designated to act for him, had still further confirmed them in this belief. It is but natural, therefore, that they should feel somewhat disappointed at the unexpected decision arrived at by the Great Powers, the effect of which will be to postpone indefinitely the settlement of the questions at issue, and to deprive them of a very favourable opening for entering into amicable relations with the Porte, an object they had much at heart, as they have repeatedly assured me; but, nevertheless, they will, I understand, submit to it without remonstrance, and do everything in their power to further the labours of the Delegates who are to meet at Belgrade on the 13th instant.

It seems almost a pity, in my humble opinion, that a question which presented so few difficulties, and could scarcely be considered of general political importance, should have been taken out of the hands of the only two parties really interested in bringing it to a speedy and satisfactory solution. The Servian Government on its side, and there is reason to believe the Porte also, were animated by the most conciliatory disposition towards each other, and fully prepared to make such mutual concessions as circumstances demanded, whilst conforming themselves, as strictly as the topography of the country would permit, to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin in respect to the line to be followed by the new frontier between their respective territories.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 478.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 151. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, September 7, 1878.*

RUMOURS of impending changes in the Ministry have been very rife for some time back; but since any change in its composition would not materially affect the foreign policy of Servia as long as M. Ristic was able to maintain himself in power, I did not deem it necessary to notice them sooner to your Lordship. Up to the present moment there are no signs of his position being in any way shaken by the personal dissensions known to exist in the Cabinet, and the probable retirement from office of M. Stentcha Mihailowitch, the President of the Council, M. Jovanowitch, the Minister of Finance, and of Colonel Gruitch, the Minister of War, will if anything rather tend to strengthen it, as the choice of their successors will be almost entirely left with him.

M. Ristic may be justly reproached with being excessively ambitious, arbitrary, and not over-scrupulous; but it is admitted by those most competent to pass an opinion that he is about the only Servian statesman of sufficient energy and ability, as well as political standing in the country itself and abroad, to lead Servia successfully through the difficulties which beset her path on all sides. At one time he was an

enthusiastic partizan of Russia and her adventurous policy of violence, tempered with intrigue, and as such he mainly contributed to involve Servia in the first war with Turkey, the results of which, but for the timely though ill-requited intervention of Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople, would have proved even more disastrous than they were. The lesson he then learnt does not appear to have been lost upon him, for subsequently, when Russia herself was directly engaged in hostilities against the Ottoman Empire, it was only at the eleventh hour, and with the greatest imaginable difficulty, that he could be induced to venture upon a second campaign by the joint efforts of Prince Milan and the Russian Agent here, backed up by large subsidies from the Imperial Government. Under present circumstances, he seems to have arrived at the conviction that nothing more need be expected from Russia, and he, therefore, seeks, as far as he dares, to shake off the trammels which have hitherto bound Servia to Russia, and to consolidate her independence by conciliating the other Great Powers, especially Austria, on whose goodwill and forbearance he recognizes that the future destinies of his country chiefly depend. That owing to affinities of race, language, and religion, Russia will long continue to possess the sympathies of the Servian people, and that she will not relinquish her hold over their Ruler and his Government without a hard struggle can scarcely be called in doubt. However, those sympathies, not at any time very active, are already of a decidedly platonic character. They will probably become more and more so in the course of time when once Russian money has finally ceased to flow into the country, and when the nation have got to realize the fact that they have an independent existence of their own, and consequently that further subservience to Russian ambition would only tend to jeopardize it, and thus destroy the prospect of that material prosperity which they believe to be already within their reach.

Such are, I firmly believe, M. Ristic's views at present, as also the reasoning on which they are based, and he will no doubt adhere to them, unless compelled by the force of unforeseen circumstances to depart from them. The eminently successful results of his policy, and the preponderating influence he exercises in the Government and throughout the country, with the able assistance of his brother-in-law, M. Radinoi Milotkowitch, the Minister of the Interior, have naturally made him the object of a dislike and envy almost universal on the part of a host of competitors for place and power. Nevertheless, there is every prospect of his maintaining his position in spite of their opposition, as he is very much feared, being held to be capable of resorting to any means, however unjustifiable and violent, to rid himself, if necessary, of his opponents. Besides, he enjoys the confidence of Prince Milan, who, though extremely unpopular, possesses in virtue of his birth and rank paramount influence, as far as so suspicious a disposition can be led to confide in anyone, and His Highness is, moreover, impressed with the idea that his personal safety depends in a great measure on the retention in office of this Minister—a consideration of all the more weight, since the Prince unfortunately lives in constant dread of assassination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 479.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 153.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, September 13, 1878.*

THE sudden disappearance from Belgrade of M. Lubomir Kaliewitch has given rise to some uneasiness in political circles here. This gentleman has played a rather prominent part in the internal affairs of Servia, and was for a short time a Cabinet Minister; but latterly he had been employed as head of the Commercial Department of the Ministry of Finance. Besides being involved in money difficulties, he was suspected of conspiring against Prince Milan's Government, and it is alleged that he recently had an interview with Prince Karageorgowitch on Austrian ground. The accounts I have received of this event are so conflicting, that it is impossible for me to state with certainty whether he was formally expelled by the orders of the Government, or whether he voluntarily withdrew from the country through motives of prudence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 480.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 26.*)

(No. 155. Confidential.)

Belgrade, September 14, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of this date, recorded in my despatch No. 154, on the subject of the alleged subsidies furnished by Russia to Servia, I have the honour to state, for your Lordship's information, that the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, on whom I at once called for explanations as soon as the matter came to my knowledge, confined himself to a simple and apparently straightforward denial of the statements put in circulation by the press. I took the opportunity of pointing out to his Excellency how damaging such reports were, even if unfounded, to the true interests of Servia, whose very existence was at stake in the present crisis, and how careful the Government should be not to give any pretext for them, as through their former conduct they had, unfortunately for themselves, forfeited the confidence of Her Majesty's Government and the other Great Powers. I also repeated the warning I had previously given M. Ristic, that should Servia once more attempt to re-enact the part she had played as a disturber of the peace of Europe or afford the slightest cause for complaint, no consideration would be shown her. Then Austria would immediately proceed, with, I felt sure, the entire concurrence of Her Majesty's Government, to her annexation, which a large and influential party in that Empire were eagerly demanding. It seems so self-evident that Servia, lying as she does completely at the mercy of Austria, and unable to count upon the assistance of Russia in case of emergency, has the greatest interest in maintaining a perfectly passive attitude and in conciliating the Great Powers, that I cannot bring myself to doubt the sincerity of the assurances I have repeatedly received on this point, borne out as they are to some extent by indisputable facts. The Minister of the Interior, for instance, informed me that by his orders a certain Osman Beg, the correspondent of a Russian paper, had been refused permission to cross over into Bosnia. On a subsequent occasion I casually mentioned this individual's name to the Russian Agent, whereupon I was at once shown a telegram just received from him, protesting against the proceedings of the Servian frontier authorities. Within the last few months General Fadeieff has been twice compelled to cut short his visits to this country. Colonel Thomaroff, who acted for some time as General Tchernaieff's chief of the staff, is supposed to be here on some secret mission. The plain facts of the case, as stated to me by M. Persiani, in whose word, from long experience, I place great reliance, are that this adventurer is unable to furnish a satisfactory account to the auditors of the Slav Committee at Moscow of the large sums they remitted to him during the first Servian campaign, and that he has, therefore, come here to endeavour to obtain by fair or by foul means the documents he requires. The statements in the papers, with regard to the number of Servian troops kept under arms, the calling out of the militia, and the great military preparations which are being made, are also palpably exaggerated, when not altogether untrue. At the present moment there are, I believe, not above 25,000 men with the colours, and considering the great extent of the frontiers, as well as the disturbed condition of the neighbouring districts, this force is barely sufficient to guard them efficiently and to furnish garrisons for the capital and the principal towns in the newly annexed territories. So short are the Government of troops, that within the last few days all the men remaining in the capital have been ordered off to reinforce the detachments stationed along the banks of the Drina. The militia has not been called out; but in several districts close to the frontiers the men have been warned to hold themselves in readiness in case their services should be required—a very necessary precaution—seeing that at any moment large bodies of Bosnian insurgents may seek to take refuge on Servian territory, or to make use of it for military purposes. As to the military preparations said to be in progress there are no visible signs of them to be detected anywhere, and furthermore, the Government is in such straits for money that it is as much as it can do to provide for the current expenditure, and, consequently, even if it wished, it could not spare any for such an object.

Since calling on the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, I have had a long and confidential conversation with the Bulgarian Agent, who, of his own accord, volunteered to explain to me what had probably given rise to the reports I have previously alluded to, that his Government were again going to subsidize Servia. It appears that he had the greatest difficulty in inducing the Servian Government to take the field a second time against Turkey, and that they finally consented on the express condition that, besides receiving at once a considerable sum down to cover the cost of the necessary military preparations, they were to continue to be paid at the rate of 15 kopecks silver, or about 6*d.* per day, for every man they brought into the field, such payment to be prolonged until a definite peace was concluded between the belligerents. There was no written agreement on the subject between the Contracting Parties, and, as often happens in such cases, each one in the end understood it differently, the Servians claiming payment for a longer period and a larger number of men than the Russians were at all inclined to admit. The matter remained pending for months, and finally, at the urgent solicitation of Prince Milan and his Government, who, as I have repeatedly stated, are at their wits' ends for money to meet payments due for military stores contracted for in Austria and elsewhere, the Russian Government have consented to pay at once and in full the amount they claim.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 481.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 26.*)

(No. 159.)

Belgrade, September 17, 1878.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH military operations against the so-called Bosnian insurgents are now being actively carried on in close proximity to the Servian frontier, I have hitherto carefully refrained from telegraphing to your Lordship any intelligence which did not emanate from official sources, as there is no means that I know of sifting the thousand and one rumours put in circulation in this focus of political intrigue and partizanship. The information conveyed to his Government by General Protic, and recorded in my despatch No. 158 of this same date, bears the impress of being correct, for it is corroborated in different ways by all the reports which reach this city. Even so I would have hesitated to re-telegraph it to your Lordship had not the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs unmistakably evinced the desire that I should do so, and allowed me to perceive that one of the telegrams he showed me was addressed to Prince Milan himself.

The fact is, that the Servian Government have such a dread of compromising themselves, that His Highness went to the extent some time ago of endeavouring to convince me that he had caused his frontiers to be so hermetically closed that no news of what might be taking place beyond them ever reached him. I fear that I must have unwittingly betrayed my incredulity, and allowed him to perceive that he had somewhat overshot the mark; hence his desire to remove the impression he had made. He then told me that he had been mistaken when he informed Prince Wrede, the Austrian Agent, that the frontier along the Drina, from its junction with the Danube at Schabatz to Little Zwornik, was guarded by a battalion and a half under General Alimpec, as he had on inquiring found that the whole force charged with this duty only amounted to three companies of infantry. I took the liberty of remarking to His Highness that such a small body of troops was utterly inadequate to protect effectually so long a line of frontier. I therefore advised him, in his own interest, to cause them to be reinforced with the least possible delay, so as to obviate the possibility of any violation of the frontier, an event which would at once lay him open to the suspicion on the part of Austria of having connived at a breach of neutrality. I have also taken care, on various occasions, to repeat the same observation to M. Ristic and his *locum tenens*; and I have at last the satisfaction of stating that the force on that part of the frontier has now been raised to 2,000 men, who, if necessary, will be reinforced within twenty-four hours by the militia of four military districts.

The Austrian troops have after unaccountable hesitation crossed the Save close to the mouth of the Drina, and possessed themselves of the small town, or rather village of Breza. Thus the navigation of the Save, which had all along been impeded by this insignificant obstacle, is once more free. Unfortunately, the operation was delayed much too long, the consequence being that heavily laden barges will experience considerable difficulty in navigating it, and be unable to bring up quickly the supplies and war material required for the use of the army of occupation.

If the accounts which reach this place are at all reliable, the insurgents, who are spoken of here as refugees, are as resolute as ever, in spite of the heavy losses and repeated defeats said to have been inflicted upon them. There is every prospect, therefore, that the further the Austrian forces advance into the interior of the country

the greater will become the obstacles they have to overcome, and the more desperate the resistance opposed to them. Bielina, Tuzla, and Zwornik are reported to be very strongly fortified and numerously defended, the former stronghold having been reinforced by the insurgents driven out of Brcza, which, it is alleged, was needlessly destroyed by bombardment, the batteries erected for its defence having been situated at some distance from the town itself, and not in a line with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 482.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 161.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 19, 1878.

THE International Commission for the delimitation of the Servian frontiers, to which I have referred in the telegrams I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 2nd, 14th, and 17th instant, recorded in my despatches Nos 148, 156, and 160 of the same dates respectively, is composed of the following members, all of whom are now assembled at Belgrade:—Mr. Consul-General Aubaret for France; Major Bellinche for Austro-Hungary; Colonel Gola for Italy; Colonel Baron Kaulbars for Russia; and Captain Baron Alten for Germany. They have provisionally appointed M. Aubaret their President, and he has accordingly lost no time in addressing me in their name, the note of which a copy is herewith inclosed, together with one of my reply thereto.

On their side, these gentlemen are not unnaturally annoyed at the false position they are placed in by the non-arrival of an English Delegate, but in the absence of instructions of any kind I have not been able to furnish them with satisfactory information on the subject. I hear they have, since the receipt of my letter, telegraphed to their respective Governments for instructions. They seem to have been uselessly hurried off without having any very clear idea whether they are to undertake the delimitation of the whole or of only that part of the Servian frontiers bordering on the Turkish Empire as at present constituted.

The Servian Government, on their side, are equally perplexed, not having been led to expect the appointment of such a Commission, not knowing on what footing they are to be placed with respect to it, and being unable to obtain the slightest explanation of the matter from the various political Agents here, who, like myself, are without any instructions. They first cancelled the appointments that they had been induced to make at Mehemed Ali Pasha's request, and resolved to wait patiently for the decisions of the Great Powers. On second thoughts they have to show their conciliatory disposition, named fresh Delegates, and informed the foreign members of the Commission that, to provide for their due protection, they will cause them to be escorted by two battalions of infantry and a battery of artillery when employed on the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 482.

M. Aubaret to Mr. Gould.

Belgrade, le 19 *Septembre*, 1878.

M. l'Agent,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que la Commission Internationale pour la délimitation des frontières de la Sorbie s'est provisoirement constituée. Le Commissaire Allemand devant arriver aujourd'hui, il ne manque plus que notre collègue d'Angleterre pour commencer nos travaux. Je vous serai, en conséquence, très-obligé, M. l'Agent, de vouloir bien me faire savoir si nous pouvons compter sur l'arrivée prochaine du Commissaire Anglais. La saison étant déjà fort avancée nous serions très-désireux de pouvoir prendre les mesures nécessaires pour le commencement de nos travaux.

En vous priant de vouloir bien m'honorer d'une réponse, je vous, &c.
(Signé) G. AUBARET, *Consul-Général*,
Président Provisoire de la Commission.

Inclosure 2 in No. 482.

Mr. Gould to M. Aubaret.

M. le Commissaire, *Belgrade, le* 19 *Septembre*, 1878.

EN réponse à la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser sous cette date, j'ai le regret de vous faire savoir que jusqu'à ce moment je n'ai reçu du Gouvernement de la Reine aucune communication au sujet de la Commission dont vous faites partie. Je lui ai demandé des instructions, et, dès qu'elles me parviendront, je m'empresserai de vous en faire part.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) G. F. GOULD.

No. 483.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 63. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Wassitsch, Austrian Consul-General, who returned here on the 3rd instant, left again on the 11th for Vienna, whither he has been summoned to take part in a Commission for the affairs of Bosnia.

On the 10th instant sixteen Government functionaries arrived here from Austria to assist in the organization of the civil administration of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 484.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 64. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that reinforcements to the Austrian army are now daily arriving here, and active hostilities are about to be resumed against the insurgents.

In connection with the advance on Tuzla, which is being made from Breka and Doboi, a division is about to march from this to Visegrad, with a view, I suppose, to cut off the retreat of the insurgents. An expedition is also to be simultaneously made against Livon by way of Travnik.

In the district of Bihac, the Austrian forces appear to have met with but little success lately. They were repulsed between the 6th and the 8th instant, with the loss of 600 men killed and wounded, in the neighbourhood of the town of Bihac, which, it appears, is still held by the Turks; and on the 8th they only succeeded in taking the small town of Kljuc after three days' hard fighting, and with considerable loss.

I regret not to be able to give your Lordship more detailed accounts of the military operations in this province, but the Austrian authorities are exceedingly reticent, and beyond what occurs in the immediate vicinity of Serajevo it is impossible to obtain any reliable information.

The insurrection continues to gather strength. The inhabitants of the towns of Rogatica and Gorazda, situated about 35 miles from this, who had already made their submission, have now been forced to rise, and the Mudir of the latter place is even said to have been beaten to death by order of Ismail Bey for having forwarded to Serajevo a deed of submission. It is also asserted that the insurgents in many parts of the country are pillaging and massacring the Christian peasants.

The Mufti of Taslidza, who is at the head of the insurrection in the Sandjak of Svornik, lately addressed a threatening letter to the Mussulmans of this town, to the effect that if they did not rise against the Austrians he would come and burn down the town; but the Austrians have taken such precautions against surprise that there is

but little chance of any such attempt being made, much less of being successfully carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 485.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 27. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 14, 1878.*

YESTERDAY M. Kallai, who had arrived the day before, called on me, and accompanied Lord Donoughmore and myself to Pera.

He is very anxious for the success of the Commission, the more so as he conceives the establishment of a good form of Government in Roumelia is essential to Austria. He was glad on learning from me that the French Commissioner was likely to go with us, as he has much fear of the vacillation of the Turkish Commissioner. He says that from two different points of view Turkey and Russia do not want the settlement of this question—Russia from her general policy, Turkey from a reluctance to give up her absolute dominion; and this might lead them to coalesce in the Commission.

He does not think Italy much to be depended on, though she will go with us generally; but he thinks that if the English, Austrian, and French Commissioners show a firm front, the Turkish Commissioner will not give a casting vote against them.

On arriving at Pera we met M. de Braunschweig, the German Commissioner, whom I introduced to M. Kallai.

In a few minutes' conversation they had together in the street, the latter informed me afterwards, M. de Braunschweig repeated the phrase he had used to me regarding his mission of conciliation, and pressed M. de Kallai to listen to everything that would be urged by our colleague of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 486.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 28. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 14, 1878.*

THIS morning, after writing to your Lordship, I called on M. de Braunschweig, at Buyukdéré, where he is staying in the same hotel with the German Ambassador.

He more than once impressed on me the little interest Germany took in the whole thing, and said, contrary to what he had told me the other day, that he had not yet taken steps to lodge himself at Philippopolis.

I told him I considered our going there indispensable, as, during the sitting of the Commission, we were charged with the administration of the finances.

On this he produced a new interpretation of the Treaty, which he said he did not give as his own, but as one that might be brought forward by others.

Taking Articles XVIII and XIX of the Treaty together he read them thus—

"Cette Commission aura à déterminer, dans un délai de trois mois," &c.

The three months, according to the new interpretation, refers not to the duration of the Commission, but to the preparation of its Report and the promulgation of the Imperial Firman.

Afterwards comes in Article XIX—

"La Commission Européenne sera chargée d'administrer, d'accord avec la Sublime Porte, les finances de la province jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation."

The "achèvement de la nouvelle organisation" is the completion of the mechanism after the promulgation of the Firman; and during this process of completion the Commission is to have the management of the finance.

M. de Braunschweig went on to say that this duty would go on side by side with those imposed on the Commission in Article XXIII, for which no term was fixed.

I learn from other quarters, also, that the Russians repudiate all idea of the Commission undertaking the administration of the finances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 487.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 29.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September 15, 1878.*

LORD DONOUGHMORE, who left this on Friday to catch the early train for Adrianople on Saturday, sent me from Pera a Report, of which the inclosed is an extract, giving an account of the language held by General Skobeleff at the *table d'hôte* at Misseri's hotel. I telegraphed to your Lordship a summary of it. It has formed the subject of considerable comment, and has been reported in still stronger terms to the Representative of a great Power, whose Consul was present on the occasion.

This is not the first time General Skobeleff has made use of similar language, and all those attached to Russia declare she will never leave Eastern Roumelia.

The gentleman to whom I referred in my despatch No. 23 of the 11th instant, in talking over these reports some days ago, said that they were merely put forth as feelers to ascertain what Europe was prepared to stand; that if no great expression of feeling were called forth, Russia would carry out the intentions set forth in these rumours, but that if a contrary disposition were decidedly manifested, she would conform to the Treaty.

Meanwhile the arming of a militia in Eastern Roumelia, under Russian officers, appears to me a violation of the Treaty, while at the same time Russian money is being spent to get up demonstrations at Philippopolis against the action of the Commission.

It is clearly not to the advantage of Russia that a good form of Government should be established in Eastern Roumelia, and it will require much firmness to prevent the Treaty of Berlin from being, in this respect, entirely evaded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 487.

The Earl of Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Extract.) *Pera, September 13, 1878.*

THIS evening I met General Skobeleff, who is in command of the Russian forces in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. He stated, in the course of conversation, although not to me personally, that it was intended to keep an army of 45,000 men in the country south of the Balkans during the winter, besides a considerably larger body in Bulgaria. The exact number of this latter force has escaped my memory, but the General stated it to be over 100,000 men.

No. 488.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 15, 1878.*

BOTH the Austrian Ambassador and the Commissioner are very eager to work with me, and have constantly expressed themselves in that sense.

If, therefore, the Commission is postponed, I shall try in the meanwhile to prepare with M. Kallai a programme for our labours.

I would wish, however, to bring before your Lordship the following consideration.

Your Lordship is quite aware of the dilatoriness with which everything is done in Turkey.

The reforms she herself has promulgated have often never been put in vigour, and, if left to herself for execution, those to be proposed by the Commission may very likely meet the same fate.

I would venture to suggest, therefore, as one means towards the end desired, that the Delimitation Commissions named by the different Powers should be charged with taking a census of Eastern Roumelia, and of settling a map, not only of its frontiers, but of its internal distribution.

A very good basis exists in a map, not yet published, but ready for publication, by the Austrian Etat-Major. Of this M. Kallai has a copy, which he tells me shows considerable error in Kiepert's map.

My reason for making the suggestion is, that when once we have decided on the form of representation and the constituencies, the boundaries both as to territory and population could at once be fixed, and the new machinery would be set in motion before the Commission of Organization had left the country.

I do not think this work would entail much time or expense, while it might avoid the dangers arising from procrastination and intrigue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 489.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 17, 1878.*

BARON DE PLINY and M. Coutouly, the French Commissioner and Assistant-Commissioner, called on me yesterday and stayed with me some time.

They were very cordial, expressing their desire to work with me, and to establish in Roumelia a form of Government which should maintain the province under the authority of the Sultan, while establishing guarantees for the welfare of the population.

I beg to inclose a paragraph taken from a Constantinople paper, professing to sketch out the form of Government which the Russians propose to give to Bulgaria.

If this be true, your Lordship will perceive how much it is calculated to render Bulgaria a merely Russian province, which, if governed by a Prince under the influence of Russia, will not give to the Bulgarians even as much freedom as they have hitherto enjoyed. This the more confirms me in my view of the necessity of establishing in Eastern Roumelia such a *régime* as will contrast favourably with that of Bulgaria, and prevent the inhabitants of that province from desiring annexation to Bulgaria by giving them those conditions of freedom and self-government which it is clearly the object of Europe to establish.

There is nothing to my mind incompatible in this with the complete control of the Sultan's Government in all political and military affairs, the best security for which will be found in the contentment of the various races and religions existing in Eastern Roumelia.

It is unfortunate that the Turkish Government, which is so much interested in this question, should have delayed to the last the appointment of a Commissioner.

M. de Pliny was of opinion, with myself and M. Kallaj, that the Turkish Commissioner should be requested to take the Presidency of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 489.

Extract from the "Constantinople Messenger" of September 15, 1878.

LA CONSTITUTION BULGARE.—On mande de Philippopoli, 22 Août, à la "Correspondance Politique" de Vienne:—"Les instructions adressées de Saint Pétersbourg

au Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff tendent en particulier, à ce que l'on évite soigneusement de laisser se former dans la Province de Bulgarie des éléments de nature à favoriser l'introduction du régime Constitutionnel qui est représenté comme devant être funeste à un peuple aussi peu éclairé que celui de Bulgarie. Il est question de soumettre prochainement à une assemblée de notables un projet de Constitution, dont les diverses dispositions portent que les Bulgares seront Gouvernés par un Prince dont l'initiative ne sera subordonnée ni à un Sénat ni à une Chambre. Ce Prince aura une souveraineté absolue. Sa Liste Civile sera de 1,000,000 francs. Il nommera des Ministres qui ne seront responsables que devant lui. La résidence de ce Prince et le siége du Gouvernement seront fixés à Tirnovo. La religion d'Etat sera la religion Grecque Orientale; toutefois les autres religions jouiront de tous leurs droits. L'église nationale aura une organisation épiscopale et sera complétement indépendante du Patriarche de Constantinople. Il n'y aura point de noblesse Bulgare. Tous les priviléges, toutes les prérogatives qu'on pourrait avoir à revendiquer sont abolis. Tous les Bulgares sont égaux devant la loi. Les vakoufs seront administrés par l'Etat, dont ils seront la propriété. Les étrangers seront autorisés à acquérir des propriétés immobilières. Le pays sera divisé en douze districts civils et militaires. L'instruction publique sera entièrement remise aux mains du clergé. L'Etat ne se réserve que le droit de surveillance. Le Prince est le chef suprême de l'armée, dont l'effectif dépendra de l'état du pays. Le chiffre du tribut à payer au Sultan sera fixé ultérieurement. Tels sont les points principaux de la Constitution que l'on agrée à St. Pétersbourg. A l'égard du choix d'un Prince, on attribue au Gouvernement Russe une préférence très-marquée pour le Prince de Battenberg, neveu du Tsar. Cette candidature sera appuyée fortement dans le pays et l'on fera pour elle une propagande active. Ajoutons que parmi les Bulgares ayant un certain degré de culture, on penche fortement à élire un Prince originaire du pays. Il faut mentionner enfin les tendances d'un parti assez peu considérable, qui a jeté ses vues sur le Général Ignatieff. C'est le Général Skobeleff qui a été chargé du commandement de l'armée Bulgare dont l'organisation est en train de s'effectuer. Ce général ne fait pas grand cas des qualités militaires des Bulgares, qui sont le peuple le moins belliqueux de la Péninsule des Balkans. Il se propose donc de former dans chaque compagnie un noyau composé de Russes. Beaucoup de soldats qui ont fait leur temps de service et d'autres qui attendent leur congé ont été invités à entrer dans l'armée Bulgare. De cette façon, il se peut bien que de l'armée nationale il ne reste finalement guère plus que le nom. Pour ce qui concerne les Musulmans de Bulgarie, sur le sort desquels on avait de plusieurs côtés de graves appréhensions, il semble que cet élément de la population tende à disparaître du pays, lentement mais sûrement. Dans les villes du moins, ils ont commencé à vendre, souvent à vil prix, tous leurs immeubles. Il est donc probable qu'au bout de quelques années la Bulgarie n'aura guère plus de Musulmans que la Servie et la Roumanie n'en ont aujourd'hui, et pourtant la population de ces pays comprenait, il y a trente ans encore, des milliers de Musulmans."

No. 490.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 32. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 18, 1878.*

SINCE writing to your Lordship my despatch No. 31 of yesterday, I have become aware of the opinion of the military advisers, both of the Embassy and of the Porte, that the line of defence of the Balkans is not that which they would recommend for the defence of the capital, and that the real defence of Constantinople must be Adrianople and the lines of Buyuk Tchekmedje and Derkos.

This confirms me the more in my view that the Sultan must rely, for the defence of Eastern Roumelia, on the goodwill of the populations.

In the present state of feeling the Bulgarian militia are hostile, nor do the Russians think that Turkey can depend on them for the future. I have the best authority for saying that the present organization going on in Eastern Roumelia under the direction of Russia is intended for the future, and that, even after the evacuation of the province, Russia will keep emissaries in Eastern Roumelia, and arms at particular points in Bulgaria for the arming, in case of necessity, of the Eastern Roumelian militia, as now organized by them. The fidelity of a militia recruited from

the Mussulman population would be neutralized by the disaffection of the Bulgarians, and thus leave the province an easy prey to invasion from beyond the Balkans.

Taking the question either way, it appears plain that strong efforts must be made to satisfy the Eastern Roumelians by the Government which is to be given to them. If the Balkans be a good barrier, then it is important that the inhabitants of the country in the rear of a Balkan army should be well affected. If those mountains are not adopted as a line of defence, it would be well that the people of the province should so prize their political condition as to oppose rather than promote the cause of the invader. It appears to me that never was there an occasion which pointed out so clearly to the Rulers the necessity of establishing for the ruled a generous form of Government.

I dwelt on this point because I much fear influences may be brought to bear in a different sense. Some of the Turkish authorities still cling to the idea that Eastern Roumelia is to be retained on the old terms; and it might happen that with this view Turkey will side with Russia against ample concessions. At present the belief seems to prevail that Russia is likely to go to war with Austria, and that, in anticipation of this, the Russian authorities are making advances to Turkey. Nothing is improbable in the eccentricities of Turkish politics; and if I report to your Lordship these varied rumours, it is because their very incongruity confirms me in the opinion I have formed, that in all this there is but one line to be pursued by Great Britain, namely, that adopted by Her Majesty's Government of strengthening the hands of the Sultan, not by political combinations, but by inducing him seriously to study the wants of his subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 491.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 33. Confidential.) [B.B.*]
My Lord, *Therapia, September 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of some very able and interesting despatches which I have received from the Earl of Donoughmore at Adrianople.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 491.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)
Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Adrianople, September 16, 1878.*

I ARRIVED here on Saturday night, and propose remaining until to-morrow, when I shall proceed to Philippopolis.

Since my arrival I have succeeded in gathering some information as to the local militia, which is reported as being organized in Eastern Roumelia, and hope to be able to send you further, and more precise, details on the spot.

I learn that a force composed exclusively of Bulgarians, estimated by some at 20,000, by others at a much larger number of men, has been enrolled, by conscription, under the title of the National army.

According to the most reliable reports, the number enrolled some days ago amounted to 22,000, and since then there has been a further call from each village of fifteen men, from amongst whom five were to be selected for service. This National army is officered by Russians, whether as a temporary measure, or not, I am unable to say. I understand, however, that the system of conscription is very distasteful to the Bulgarians. In the new province itself they submit to it with a bad grace, and an attempt to introduce it in certain localities south of the boundary line has resulted in a failure. A report to this latter effect has, I am informed, already been transmitted to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople by Mr. Calvert, the Acting Consul here.

Among the first to present themselves for enrolment were the students of the

* Inclosures 2, 4, and 6 only.

college at Philippopolis, who joined in almost their full numbers. At present the recruiting is confined chiefly to Tatar-Bazardjik and its environs, and would appear to be proceeding with some activity.

Let me assure you that the recommendations contained in the last paragraph of your letter of the 13th September, as well as those which Lord Salisbury was good enough to communicate through you, will be most carefully borne in mind by me.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

P.S.—I expect to find that it is among the less educated Bulgarians the conscription is unpopular. It appears that the better educated young men in the neighbourhood of Philippopolis are eagerly joining the force.

D.

Inclosure 2 in No. 491.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.) [B.B.]
Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Adrianople, September 16, 1878.*

I HAVE to-day had the advantage of a long conversation with two gentlemen who reside here, and who are thoroughly acquainted with all the circumstances of the locality.

One of these gentlemen is Mr. T. N. Black, the Director of the Adrianople Branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and the other is M. Charles d'Orfani, a partner in the firm of J. d'Orfani and Co., who have for many years been conducting a large business, more especially in grain, from this centre.

The firm has branches at Philippopolis, Dédéagatch, Rodosto, and other places in the Vilayet of Adrianople; the scope of their dealings, therefore, renders these gentlemen excellent authorities on all matters connected with the province.

I shall be able in my next communication to send you a Return of the revenue and expenditure of the Province of Adrianople for the financial years 1876-77 and 1877-78, that is, from the 1st March to the 1st March (o.s.), as well as a separate sheet, showing the same for the Sandjaks of Philippopolis and Slimnia. As these sandjaks describe with tolerable accuracy the limits of the new province, you will be enabled to form a pretty fair estimate of its resources during the past two years.

With reference to what I have to communicate respecting the collection of dimes, it is reliable as regards the country in the Adrianople Vilayet, now in the occupation of the Russian army, but not including the new province, as being taken from written statistics, shown to me by Mr. Black.

As regards the new province, I am indebted to M. d'Orfani for information, upon which you may safely rely.

In the former territory the dimes were sold by the Russian authorities shortly after their arrival. They amounted to 82,000 Turkish pounds in round numbers, and were to be paid in the following proportions, viz.:—

20 per cent. on purchase;
25 per cent. on the 12th August;
25 per cent. on the 12th September;
30 per cent. on the 12th October.

I was told, but not with certainty, that this had been done with the consent of the Turkish Government, and that the amount has either been calculated as a part of the indemnity or towards the maintenance of the occupying force.

I may remark that some two or three years ago the farming of the dimes in this vilayet was abandoned by the Turkish Government, and a system of direct collection instituted. The Russian authorities, however, have resorted to the old method.

With regard to the sheep and pig tax in this part of the country, I am at present unable to ascertain whether it has been collected or not, but understand that an attempt has been made to do so at this place.

In the new province proper, the dimes of this year have not as yet been collected, but a valuation was taken of all crops at the time of the harvest, and a rate struck accordingly. The Russian authorities at Philippopolis are now on the point of

collecting this rate in kind. The mode of procedure in fixing the dime was to count the stooks or sheaves on the field, to ascertain the average weight to the stook by threshing a few, and to rate in proportion.

The dime is this year fixed at 10 per cent. It had in past years been as high as 12½ per cent.

With regard to the sheep and pig tax I have no more accurate information than in the former case, except as regards Slimnia, where it appears to have been collected.

I do not understand that there has been in any part of the country any levy of taxes in anticipation of future years.

In Eastern Roumelia, just before the harvest, such Turkish proprietors as had remained in Philippopolis, were enable to sell their produce standing on the land. Some others also were able to return in time to do the same, and the standing crops changed hands at this time at prices varying from 15*s.* to 18*s.* the "dulum."

The crops of absentees were taken over by the Russians, who had them taken in by those Bulgarians and others who remained in the provinces, giving them half for their trouble. The remaining half was stored, and was reclaimable by those proprietors who chose to come and ask for it before a certain time. Some cases have occurred where this property has been claimed, and returned to its owners, but the time has now expired, and I understand there is to be a large sale of farm produce at Philippopolis in a few days.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 491.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.)
Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Adrianople, September* 16, 1878.

IN the course of conversation this morning M. Orfani made some observations as to the feelings and desires of the Bulgarian population in Philippopolis and the neighbourhood. He said that during the last year, and more especially since the advent of the Russian forces, considerable efforts had been made to improve the town, both in the way of levelling and widening the streets and of building substantial houses.

Many Bulgarians had come down from the Balkans with the view of obtaining employment under Russian protection. He described the universal feeling among the people to be in favour of annexation to the new Bulgaria and against the formation of an autonomous State. He added that the young men of the town and district were eagerly joining the new formed militia, and mentioned cases where individuals after drawing favourable numbers five times, and not succeeding in getting into the force, had ended by volunteering.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 491.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.) [B.B.]
Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Adrianople, September* 16, 1878.

THE only administrative measure that I have as yet ascertained to have been undertaken by the Russian authorities here is the formation of a police, composed of Bulgarians, for the purpose of preserving order in the town and surrounding districts. The late Chief of this force, whose name has escaped me, is at present undergoing his trial for the embezzlement of certain fines, and for being discovered as the repository of a considerable quantity of plunder.

This body of men bears the worst reputation, both for dishonesty and for their treatment of such of the Turkish population as remain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 491.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Confidential.) [B.B.]
Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Adrianople, September* 17, 1878.

I ENCLOSE herewith a Table showing the revenue of the Vilayet of Adrianople, exclusive of indirect contributions, for the years 1875-76 and 1876-77. Some of the names of the sources of revenue you will perhaps wish explained.

Virgni is a property tax.

Bedelhat, composition for military service, paid by the Christians. Its amount is about 30 piastres a-head.

Contracts, a small tax is levied on the registration of contracts.

Rassumat, the name for certain small dues, paid in some cases, such as the sale of a horse.

Emlaks, Crown rents.

Appended to the above Table is a Return, taken on an average of the two years 1875-76 and 1876-77, of the revenue of the Sandjaks of Philippopolis and Slimnia, together with the amount derived in each from indirect taxation. I have also added an estimate of the virgni, bedelhat, dimes, sheep, and various taxes leviable in those localities.

The indirect taxation is under the charge of the Custom-house authorities, and includes duties on salt, spirits, and tobacco, and the stamp duty.

As I mentioned in my letter of the 16th September the two Sandjaks of Slimnia and Philippopolis include nearly the whole of the new province. A small portion of it is situated in the Sandjak of Adrianople; but the Returns I send may be taken as correct within 10,000*l.*

It must be remembered, however, that the value of the taxes in kind and upon live stock must fluctuate according to the season.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 491.

REVENUE of the Vilayet of Adrianople.

Sources of Revenue.	1875–76.	1876–77.
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Virgni	38,739,136	31,852,858
Bedelhat	11,529,378	18,776,724
Dimes	88,061,550	65,771,072
Sheep	21,030,749	24,325,134
Pigs	454,137	738,078
Contracts	19,912	15,855
Courts of Justice	1,084,943	677,888
Rassumat	4,092,045	4,126,155
Emlaks .. .. .. }	Nil	Nil
Mines .. .. .. }		
Woods and Forests	1,512,272	1,051,402
Various	437,973	285,814
	167,581,006	147,600,573
	£	£
	1,418,230	1,326,945

N.B.—The above Table does not contain a Return of the indirect contributions of the Vilayet.

	Piastres.
Revenue of the Sandjak of Philippopolis, calculated as 33·9 per cent. of the average revenue of the whole Vilayet, for the two years above mentioned (152,620,351 piastres)	51,738,462
Indirect contributions of the Sandjak	3,550,228
Total	55,288,690
	£497,060
Revenue of the Sandjak of Slimnia, calculated as 18·7 per cent. of the average revenue of the whole Vilayet, for the two years above mentioned (152,160,834 piastres)	28,540,097
Indirect contributions of the Sandjak	5,031,598
Total	33,571,695
	£302,145
Estimated yearly revenue of the two Sandjaks—	
Philippopolis	55,288,690
Slimnia	33,571,695
Total	88,860,385
	£799,743

Dimes, &c., in Philippopolis and Slimnia.

		Virgni.	Bedelnat.	Dimes.	Sheep	Various.
Philippopolis	Piastres	10,439,930	3,695,265	21,800,000	5,345,994	5,032,224
	£	93,960	33,257	186,200	48,114	45,290
Slimnia	Piastres	3,677,115	1,932,614	10,000,000	3,632,564	5,240,302
	£	33,094	17,394	90,000	32,693	47,163

No. 402.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 26.*)

(No. 34.) [B.B.]

Therapia, September 19, 1878.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY, on calling on Prince Tseretelew, one of the Russian Commissioners, and on meeting him subsequently at Prince Labanoff's, the Russian Ambassador's, I found that the former had started a doubt as to the right of Turkey to appoint a Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia. He founded his argument on the words of Article XVIII of the Treaty, which says: "Une Commission Européenne sera formée pour élaborer d'accord avec la Porte Ottomane, l'organisation de la Roumélie."

From this he argued that the European Commission was a separate body intended to act "d'accord avec la Sublime Porte," and that therefore the Porte could not be represented in its discussions. He further contended that the circumstance of the Porte having to promulgate a Firman embodying the decisions of the Commission would give it a double power of criticism.

In further support of his text, he referred to the definition of a European Commission, in Article II, in which occur the words "où les Puissances signataires seront représentées." The omission of these words in Article XVIII implied the omission of the Turkish Commissioner. Prince Labanoff did not seem very warm in defence of this theory, a circumstance explained to me this morning by a note of his shown me by the Grand Vizier, in which his Excellency pressed for the nomination of a Turkish Commissioner. It is true that, in the same note, he designated Constantinople as the seat of the Commission.

Prince Tseretelew then endeavoured to make out that the Commission required constant communication with the Ambassadors. This was intended evidently to establish the necessity of the Commission meeting at Constantinople instead of at Philippopolis. Prince Labanoff, however, seems to recognize the selection of the latter place, and the ingenuity of Prince Tseretelew was therefore wasted.

On leaving the Russian Embassy, Prince Tseretelew accompanied me, and asked me if I had any objection to discuss the question of the admission of a Turkish Commissioner at a meeting of the other Commissioners, to be held officially or non-officially somewhere. I suggested that the best place of meeting would be at the Porte. He did not receive this proposal with enthusiasm, but said, in the first place, the meeting, an unofficial one, should be held at one of the Embassies—for instance, at the house of the Austrian Ambassador, who is the Doyen.

I answered that, as this meeting would probably hurt the susceptibilities of the Porte, I could not join in it without instructions. I subsequently ventured to suggest to Sir H. Layard and to the French Ambassador that it would be well if the Porte were urged to announce the nomination of their Commissioner, and to invite a meeting of the Commission, a suggestion their Excellencies were good enough to adopt.

I learn to-day that the Austrian Ambassador began some overture for a meeting of the nature suggested by Prince Tseretelew to M. Fournier, who at once refused to accept the idea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND-WOLFF.

No. 403.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 26.*)

(No. 1130. Secret.)

Therapia, September 14, 1878.

My Lord,

AS I was anxious to speak to the Sultan with regard to the present critical state of affairs, I sent to beg His Majesty to see me, and he was good enough to invite me to the Palace yesterday afternoon. On my asking after His Majesty's health, he replied that he was labouring under the same illness from which he had been suffering for some time past—the want of money. He then inquired whether I could hold out any hopes to him that Her Majesty's Government would assist him in obtaining a loan, for matters were getting worse and worse, and the general discontent, owing to the great fall in the value of the caimé, or paper money, was increasing to an alarming extent. He referred to the Commission that had been appointed to inquire into the means that should be adopted to withdraw the caimé, and expressed his hope that its recommendations, when carried out, would have the desired effect.

I observed to His Majesty that I was not competent to give an opinion upon so difficult and complicated a financial problem as that of the withdrawal of the caimé; but that I was bound to say that persons of great experience in such matters doubted whether the measures suggested by the Commission would remedy the evil that existed, fearing, on the contrary, that they might increase it. It was, therefore, necessary, I thought, to proceed with great caution and prudence in the matter.

His Majesty remarked that the only effective way of dealing with the question was, no doubt, to obtain a loan from abroad, and he believed that the Porte could still find a guarantee from her revenues which ought to enable her to obtain one.

I pointed out to His Majesty that the foreign creditors of Turkey already claimed all the revenues of the Empire, and that in the protest addressed to your Lordship by the Commissioners representing the bondholders of the Turkish Loans of 1858 and 1862 it was shown that the then Grand Vizier had pledged, in pursuance of an Imperial Firman, all the general resources of the Ottoman Empire and Government to the payment of the principal and interest on one of those loans. Such being the case, they insisted that the revenues of the Empire were already engaged, and could not be offered as a guarantee for any new loan.

There might be an advantage, I said, in this state of things, as Russia could not claim any part of the Ottoman revenues in payment of the indemnity she was entitled to demand of the Porte, and which, it was understood, was not to be paid until previous creditors of Turkey were satisfied. The foreign bondholders might, in their own interest, be induced to release some part of the general revenues in order to enable the Turkish Government to raise a loan which should be strictly applied to restoring tranquillity in the country, to introducing the necessary reforms, and to putting into order the finances. Proper measures taken to that effect would tend to increase the revenues of the Empire, and would, consequently, be favourable to its creditors, who could get little or nothing whilst the present state of anarchy and disorganization lasted.

I asked His Majesty whether, in the event of a loan being procurable upon the revenues of any particular vilayet, he would assent to their collection by a European nominated by the English Government or by the bondholders, whose duty it would be to

superintend and reform the whole financial system of such province or provinces. I added that I had no authority whatever to make such a proposal to him, but that, if it were one which he would accept, I would submit it to Her Majesty's Government.

After some discussion between His Majesty and the Grand Vizier, who was present at my interview, they agreed that an arrangement of the kind would be acceded to, and they requested me to suggest it to your Lordship.

After some further conversation on financial matters, in which the Sultan repeatedly urged me to represent to Her Majesty's Government the serious danger that the fall in the paper money threatened to the country, I asked His Majesty whether he had yet confirmed the "Mazbata," or Report, presented to him nearly a week since, of the Council of Ministers, advising the acceptance of the Convention prepared by Count Andrassy with respect to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His Majesty replied that he had not done so, as the matter required great reflection and consideration. I observed that one of my objects in asking to see His Majesty was to impress upon him the great importance of settling, without further delay, a question which might have the gravest consequences to his Empire if not arranged before it was too late. I said that Her Majesty's Government felt much anxiety on the subject, as they had reason to believe that Austria was about to come to an understanding with Servia and Montenegro, which could not be otherwise than most prejudicial to the interests of Turkey, and as they foresaw the unfavourable effect that the refusal of the Porte to carry out any of the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin would have upon public opinion in Europe.

I therefore ventured to implore His Majesty not to incur the responsibility of refusing to accept the advice of the Ministers, but to act upon it at once.

His Majesty replied that he would consider the matter; but he said so in a tone which did not lead me to think that he was prepared to give way. He then spoke, with a suppressed emotion and irritation that it was painful to witness, of the invasion of Bosnia by the Austrians and of their treatment of the Mussulman population. His Majesty declared that it even exceeded in cruelty and injustice the manner in which the Russians had behaved towards the Mahommedans in Bulgaria and Roumelia. The Russians, His Majesty said, were his enemies. They had defeated him, and they had exercised the rights of the conqueror. But the Austrians pretended to enter his territories as his friends, and yet they were massacring and despoiling his subjects. Could he, His Majesty asked, as a Mussulman, as Caliph, and as a Sovereign, sanction such things by consenting to the signature of a Convention which handed over the provinces and their inhabitants to Austria, not only without their consent, but against their will? Were he not, he exclaimed, with great animation, on the Throne, he called God to witness that he would shoulder a musket and join those who were sacrificing themselves to resist this iniquitous invasion of their country. He could not understand, he went on to say, how Europe could view with indifference this violation of all right and law. That she did so proved that there existed a deliberate intention to exterminate the Mahommedans. The Turks were accused of fanaticism, but had they ever thus aimed at the destruction of a whole race because it differed from them in religion? He had himself seen the Emperor of Austria, and he believed him to be a real fanatic.

I endeavoured to calm His Majesty by representing to him that it was impossible that a civilised and enlightened Government like that of Austria should be guilty of the misdeeds laid to its charge, and that the reports which had reached him of the cruelties alleged to have been committed by the Austrian soldiers had no doubt been greatly exaggerated by persons who were interested in misleading him. I told His Majesty that I had received despatches from Her Majesty's Consul in Bosna-Serai which, whilst informing me that the Austrian military authorities had not apparently treated the Mussulman population with justice and proper consideration, but had exposed it to considerable hardships on account of the resistance which it was accused of having made to the occupation of the town, did not charge them with any such cruelties as he had been induced to believe they had committed.

His Majesty observed that the information which he had received about the cruel treatment of the Mussulman population came from trustworthy sources. He could no longer protect his subjects from it, and he, therefore, earnestly begged me to ask Her Majesty's Government from him to intercede on their behalf with that of Austria, and if it were determined that there should be no longer any Mussulmans left in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to obtain permission for them to emigrate to Albania and to other parts of his Empire.

I replied that although I was convinced that it was neither the intention nor the

desire of Austria to exterminate the Mussulman population, as His Majesty appeared to think, but that, on the contrary, it was her true policy, and the one most in accordance with her own interests, to conciliate it and to obtain its support, it would be my duty to submit his request to your Lordship. I then placed before His Majesty all the arguments that suggested themselves to me, to persuade him that it was of the utmost importance that he should come to a friendly understanding with Austria, instead of compelling her to join with his enemies. If she were to do so, I insisted, the gravest consequences might ensue to his Empire in Europe. I earnestly entreated him, therefore, as a sincere friend, to conclude an agreement with her before it was too late.

As His Majesty did not reply, and was apparently unwilling to continue the conversation on this subject, I turned to another. I told His Majesty that I desired to call his serious attention to a further matter of scarcely less urgent importance than the state of things in Bosnia and Albania. The Russians, I said, were about to withdraw from Erzeroum, and that part of Armenia which they still occupied, but which they were bound by the Treaty of Berlin to restore to Turkey. I had received information that the Christian inhabitants of the country about to be surrendered were in the greatest fear from the Mussulmans, and that, seized with a panic, they were preparing to follow the Russian army across the frontiers. I then showed His Majesty the telegram that I had received from the Armenian Archbishop and other notables of Erzeroum (copy inclosed in my No. 1141 of the 16th September). I warned him that if the Mohammedans, and especially the Kurds, who were the dread not only of the Christians but of the peaceable Mussulman population, were allowed to commit outrages and massacres upon the Armenians after the retreat of the Russian forces, the effect upon public opinion in Europe, and especially in England, could not be otherwise than deplorable. A feeling of indignation would be raised against Turkey, which might prove disastrous to His Majesty's Empire. I entreated him, therefore, to direct that immediate measures should be taken to protect the Christians of Armenia. I could not deny, I said, that they had provoked the resentment of the Mussulmans by the manner in which they had ill-treated the Mohammedan population when they could do so with impunity under Russian rule; but it was His Majesty's duty, both as a Sovereign and as a Mussulman, to prevent acts of vengeance, and to protect, under all circumstances, the lives and property of his subjects.

I represented to His Majesty the consequences that must ensue to Turkey by the migration to Russia of a large and industrious population. I ventured to suggest that the present Governor-General of the province of Erzeroum, Ismail Hakki Pasha, should be immediately recalled. He was known to be a fanatic, and a cruel and unjust man. An inquiry had been instituted by the Porte into his conduct when he was Vali of Diarbekir, and he had been removed from his post on account of the manner in which he had oppressed the people. I begged His Majesty to name a new Governor, who would command the confidence of Mussulmans and Christians alike, and who could be depended upon to take energetic measures to protect them against the excesses of the Kurds.

I further suggested that an Armenian of weight and influence should accompany the new Governor as Mutessarif, or Mushteshar, or in some other high capacity. Such an appointment would have the effect of giving confidence to the Armenians, and of inducing them to abandon their intention of leaving His Majesty's dominions to seek safety in Russia, and would be accepted as a proof of His Majesty's determination that they should be treated with justice and liberality, and should receive the fullest protection for their lives and property.

I reminded His Majesty of his promise to me, when I last had the honour of seeing him, to give Baker Pasha an important command in Anatolia, and I expressed my belief that if His Majesty would, without delay, fulfil it by placing him at the head of the troops in Armenia, such a measure would produce an excellent impression upon the Armenian population, would reassure them, and would afford the best evidence that His Majesty was resolved to put an end to the excesses from which the Christians had suffered for so long a period from the Kurds.

His Majesty replied that he was convinced that the accounts I had received from Armenia were much exaggerated. He knew that secret Agents had been at work for a long time past to induce the Armenians to emigrate on the departure of the Russian troops, and, with this object, attempts had been made to alarm them by reports of the intentions of the Kurds to massacre them. His Majesty fully admitted that it was necessary to take measures to maintain order in Armenia, and to protect its population, Mussulman as well as Christian, as soon as the Russians had withdrawn. For

this purpose he had given orders that a High Commissioner should be sent immediately to assist the Vali. At the same time, "the state of siege" would be proclaimed in the province, and a tribunal be established, which would deal summarily with complaints brought before it, and punish, with the utmost severity, those who might be guilty of outrages upon the Christians. He trusted that a check would thus be placed upon the Kurds, who, he agreed with me in believing, were as much dreaded by the peaceable Mussulman population as by the Armenians. It was on this account that he desired to keep Ismaïl Hakki Pasha as Governor-General. He was a Kurd, and, from his origin and his knowledge of their language, possessed great influence over the Kurdish tribes, who looked up to him as their "baba" (father). It would be the duty of Ismaïl Hakki Pasha to use that influence to restrain the Kurds, and to prevent them from ill-treating the Armenians.

His Majesty added that he was about to send him the most stringent instructions to do so; and if he neglected that duty, and there were any well-founded complaints against him, he should be immediately recalled. His Majesty expressed his approval of my suggestion, that an Armenian functionary of high standing at the Porte, possessing influence over his countrymen, should be sent to act with the Turkish Commissioner; and he gave orders to the Grand Vizier to select a proper person for the office. As regards Baker Pasha, His Majesty said that he had already communicated his wishes to the Seraskier that he should be appointed to a command in Asia, and he hoped to satisfy me upon this point also.

Towards the end of this long and interesting conversation, which I have reported at some length, in consequence of its importance, His Majesty somewhat recovered his spirits, and on my leaving him he thanked me, in his usual kind and gracious manner, for the information and advice that I had given him, begging me to see him again shortly.

When we had retired to the ante-room, Safvet Pasha expressed a hope that I had observed the tenacity with which the Sultan held to his determination not to sanction the Convention proposed by Count Andrassy. His Highness said that no arguments that he had been able to use had shaken His Majesty's resolve, and that he was convinced that nothing would induce His Majesty to give way, as he looked upon the Convention as a renunciation of his sovereignty over the provinces which Austria had occupied, and which he had inherited from his predecessors, and as a betrayal of the rights and interests of their inhabitants, which could not be justified in the eyes of his people and of his family, and for which he would be held personally responsible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—As I attach a good deal of importance to my conversation with the Sultan recorded in this despatch, I have requested Mr. Saudison, who was present on the occasion, to make a memorandum for me of his recollection of what passed. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it. Your Lordship will perceive that, with some slight differences, it confirms in the main my Report, which I had not shown to him.

A. H. L.

Inclosure in No. 493.

Memorandum by Mr. Saudison of Private Audience of the Sultan on Saturday, September 15, 1878.

THE first topic of conversation was the financial situation, which the Sultan said continued to cause him considerable uneasiness and anxiety.

Your Excellency inquired whether the Commission recently appointed to discuss measures for the withdrawal of the caimé had led to any result. The Grand Vizier answered the question by saying that there was some hope of doing away with the paper currency, but that there were of course a good many difficulties to overcome in that direction. Your Excellency remarked that Her Majesty's Government continued to give their serious consideration to the question of enabling Turkey to raise a loan in England; but that the matter was not at all an easy one to deal with, considering the difficulties of assigning to it, in the shape of guarantee, any of the revenues of the Empire, all of which were applicable to the interest on the public debt under

the Firman of 1862. Under the circumstances, you would submit to the Sultan the suggestion that in endeavouring to raise a loan (to the amount of 6,000,000*l.* or 7,000,000*l.* sterling) the Porte should assign, in payment of the interest and sinking fund thereof, the revenues of some vilayet or vilayets in particular, on the understanding, however, that these shall be collected and paid in, on behalf of the contractors, under the supervision of a European financier appointed by Her Majesty's Government or the contractors for that purpose. Whilst such an arrangement would be a reform much in the same sense as what has been proposed by Her Majesty's Government in regard to the general revenues of Asia Minor, it was likely you thought to obtain also the sanction of the foreign bondholders, who had every interest to see the introduction of reforms and the development of the resources of the country by means of such a loan.

The Sultan, having approved of the suggestion, said there would be no objection to the appointment of an European Financial Inspector for the purpose in question, and took the opportunity of again pointing out the extreme urgency for money.

The conversation then turned upon the Convention with Austria, which your Excellency urged the Sultan to sanction without further delay in the true interests of his Empire. His Majesty, who had at first listened with great calmness to your arguments and representations on the subject, soon began to give vent to his feelings of intense bitterness and irritation against Austria, which he was not able, he said, to stifle any longer.

The cruelties laid to the charge of the Russians, he continued, were for the most part perpetrated at their instigation by the Bulgarians, whereas the acts of cruelty indulged in by the Austrian soldiers, of which, as reported to His Majesty, the Mussulmans of Bosnia and Herzegovina were the unhappy victims, could justly be considered as a disgrace to European civilization, and much more so to Austria herself, who, under the pretext of restoring tranquillity to provinces to which she had no claim whatever, is simply engaged in bringing death and destruction upon the Mussulman element of those provinces in order that she may enjoy their undisturbed possession for the future.

Whilst the negotiations for the entry of her troops were actually going on, Austria had precipitately ordered her forces to enter the two provinces. He had hardly expected this way of proceeding from a civilized Power like Austria, and much less to see her condescend to the means and devices she had all along resorted to with no other object than that of ultimately absorbing the territories of a friendly neighbouring Power. He had hoped to meet with a higher sense of European justice, but events had now shown him his illusions on that score. Austrian diplomacy, His Majesty continued, has been at no pains to find a plausible justification in the eyes of Europe for marching her armies into the two provinces; but the true secret of her action in this instance lies simply in the weakness of the Ottoman Empire. She would, indeed, have been much less greedy of territorial acquisitions had His Majesty been in a more powerful position, but such must now be the fate of the weaker Powers on the principle of "la raison du plus fort." He had willingly submitted to the terms dictated by Russia since the fate of war had so ordained it; but he could scarcely brook, as a Mussulman Sovereign, and in his character of Caliph, the present proceedings of the Austrian troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina, so much so that nothing was likely to give more satisfaction to his feelings at the present moment than the opportunity of pointing a gun at the Austrians himself had he been in any other position but that of Sultan.

At the rate that things are now going on, he added, nothing is left for him but the alternative of death. What His Majesty meant by it I must leave your Excellency to guess.

You made a further attempt to overcome the Sultan's objections to sanction the Convention by pointing out to His Majesty the serious danger of forcing Austria to go further than she originally intended, and to come at the same time to an understanding with Servia and Montenegro. You also tried to prove to him the fallacy of his argument as to Austria wishing to exterminate the Mussulman element, which you considered as neither logical nor at all adapted to her foreign policy. His Majesty persisted, however, in taking his own view of the question, and ended by requesting you to beg Lord Salisbury, in his name, to obtain the consent of the Austrian Government to the emigration of the Bosniac Mussulmans to the localities to be assigned to them in Albania.

The conversation ended by the Sultan saying that he did not much see the use of accepting a Convention which formally sanctioned what he disapproved, and did away

with the rights which he may some day be able to vindicate, but that he would, nevertheless, give the matter his further consideration.

Your Excellency then broached the subject of Armenia, where it was apprehended the Armenian population would be exposed to the cruelty and revenge of the Kurds and Turks on the withdrawal of the Russian forces. It was impossible, you said, to conceal from His Majesty the heavy responsibility which would fall upon himself and Government in the event of any massacres or acts of retaliation being perpetrated by the Mahommedan population on the Christians of Armenia, who were already preparing to emigrate in large numbers into Russian territory at the prospect of the fate which is said to await them. The panic which is represented to exist at Erzeroum and other places may be exaggerated, and may have been chiefly brought about by Russian intrigue; but you would nevertheless submit to His Majesty the urgent necessity for taking strong measures for the protection and security of the Armenian population. You would, with this view, earnestly recommend the appointment of a good Governor in the room of Ismail Hakki Pasha, who may have given satisfaction in his military capacity during the war, but whose character had repeatedly been tarnished by various acts of cruelty. The proper course would thus be to supersede him at once, and to entrust at the same time Baker Pasha with a military command (in Armenia), in accordance with His Majesty's own proposal on the occasion of your last audience.

Your Excellency added that it was the more important to adopt these measures at once, since the indignation produced against Russia, owing to the facts brought to light by the Rhodope Commission, would be turned into a general outcry in Russia and Europe against Turkey should any massacre of Christians, no matter on how small a scale, be allowed to take place in Armenia. His Majesty observed, in the first instance, that he did not believe much in the existence of any strong inclination for revenge and retaliation against the Christians on the part of what is considered the strictly Turkish portion of the Mahommedan population, and, secondly, that the dangers which were represented to threaten the Christians of Armenia on the withdrawal of the Russian forces appeared to him intentionally exaggerated by secret Armenian committees at Constantinople, which were known to suggest and encourage the propagation of these alarming reports. It was proper, however, to guard against the possibility of similar dangers; but as they were likely to proceed more from the Kurdish than the Turkish populations, and Ismail Hakki Pasha, who was a Kurd himself, being known to possess far greater influence over his race than any Turkish Vali in authority, he would try the experiment of maintaining him for the present as Governor-General of Erzeroum. Turning then to the Grand Vizier, His Majesty commanded His Highness to transmit to Ismail Hakki Pasha stringent orders respecting the future protection and security of the Christians, ordering at the same time the Proclamation of the state of siege in Armenia, together with the institution of a properly organized High Court-martial, with full powers to deal with all matters submitted to it. This, combined with other important measures in view, such as the withdrawal of the caimé and the introduction of the proposed reforms intended for Asia Minor, would, His Majesty felt sure, restore perfect confidence and tranquillity amongst his Christian subjects in that quarter.

Your Excellency suggested next a kind of Proclamation, calculated to reassure the Armenians, and the appointment of an Armenian Mushteshar, to which the Sultan said there could be no objection made. As to giving Baker Pasha a military command in Armenia, the question, as far as I could understand from what fell from the Sultan, has been referred to the Grand Vizier, who, it appears, has had no time to give the necessary attention to it yet.

On taking leave of the Sultan your Excellency pointed out to His Majesty the necessity and importance of Turkey fully conforming to all her obligations under the Treaty of Berlin. His Majesty replied that, notwithstanding the difficulties of the situation, he would do all that was possible towards the execution of that part of the Treaty which was binding on Turkey.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 494.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 26.*)

(No. 1140.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in pursuance of the instructions contained in your telegram of the 13th instant, I have informed the Grand Vizier that M. Palgrave has been appointed Her Majesty's Consul-General in Bulgaria, and that he is the Consular Officer delegated by Her Majesty's Government to take part in the provisional administration of the Principality.

I have also informed his Highness that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the Commission should meet as soon as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 495.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 26.*)

(No. 1141.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of an article from an Armenian newspaper, the "Michag," or "Workman," published at Tiflis, and largely circulated, I am informed, amongst the Armenians in Turkey. Its object, as your Lordship will observe, is to lead the Armenians to distrust England, and to look solely to Russia for protection, and to incite them against the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 495.

Extract from the "Michag."

(Traduction.)

QUE FAIT D'ANGLETERRE À PRÉSENT?—Le télégramme nous a transmis aujourd'hui la nouvelle de l'insurrection des Arméniens de Zéitoun contre le Gouvernement Turc. L'insurrection a donc enveloppé toute la Turquie comme les flammes d'un incendie: l'Epire, la Thessalie, l'Albanie, la Bosnie, l'Arménie, sont toutes en ébullition et en désordres.

On est forcé de se demander aujourd'hui ce que doit faire l'Angleterre qui, par la force de la Convention Secrète qu'elle a faite avec la Turquie, a entrepris la responsabilité difficile de conserver l'intégrité de la Turquie.

Est-ce que le but de cette Convention serait de protéger la Turquie contre les ennemis de dehors, ou bien l'Angleterre s'est-elle engagée par cette Convention à protéger le Gouvernement Ottoman contre les insurrections et les désordres intérieurs?

Dans le premier cas, l'Angleterre aurait fait voir que par suite des nécessités de sa politique intéressée en Orient, elle voulait empêcher la Russie de faire en Asie des conquêtes futures; dans le second cas, l'Angleterre en se démasquant complétement aurait donné à entendre que son unique et principal but est de s'unir au Mahométanisme pour étouffer et anéantir le Christianisme en Orient.

D'aucuns pensent que ceci est impossible. Est-ce qu'un Gouvernement Chrétien, est-ce qu'une nation Chrétienne et éclairée comme l'Angleterre pourrait désirer l'anéantissement des éléments Chrétiens en Asie?

Malheureusement l'histoire de la domination Anglaise aux Indes prouve que ce sentiment humain est possible en Asie Mineure surtout par rapport à l'Arménie.

Est-ce que l'Angleterre a travaillé à répandre le Christianisme dans le pays des Indes, est-ce qu'il n'a pas été plus opportun et plus favorable à son Gouvernement et à son pouvoir illimité et tyrannique aux Indes de laisser les Indiens dans le Paganisme?

Est-ce qu'il n'est pas plus convenable à l'Angleterre de régner en Arménie, si ce pays n'est pas habité par des Arméniens, mais bien par des Kurdes errants, et par des Turcs engourdis, indifférents, et paresseux?

Quand l'Angleterre fait la conquête de pays lointains, il lui est indifférent si ces pays sont habités ou complétement déserts; elle est au contraire contente si elle n'y trouve pas des nations ayant une existence morale et intellectuelle et des apitudes à l'instruction. Il faut à l'Angleterre des contrées, des terres, des richesses naturelles, forêts, des mines, et des eaux. Mais il n'entre pas dans ses comptes qu'il y ait aussi des habitants Chrétiens tendant à une existence nationale.

L'Angleterre fait des chemins de fer et trace des routes en Arménie, mais que lui importe s'il ne reste en Arménie aucun Arménien, et s'il ne s'y trouve que des Kurdes et des Turcs? Et si ces derniers aussi disparaissent, l'Angleterre n'en est pas plus embarrassée; elle peut toujours faire habiter les contrées désertes par des Colonies Anglaises. Grâce à Dieu, il se trouve en Angleterre beaucoup d'hommes affamés qui convoitent l'émigration.

L'avenir prochain prouvera si nous pensons juste ou si nous sommes dans l'erreur.

Si l'Angleterre entreprend de réprimer les sujets Chrétiens insurgés contre la Porte avec ses troupes Anglaises et ses troupes sauvages des Indes, ceci prouvera simplement quel était le but de l'Angleterre en protégeant l'intégrité de la Turquie d'Asie.

No. 496.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 1142.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram addressed to me by the Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum and the Presidents of certain Councils in that city, informing me that in consequence of the approaching departure of the Russians a panic reigns amongst the Christians, who fear that the Mussulmans will ill-treat them, and who ask for protection and help. Also copies of letters to me from the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople and the Minister of the United States, forwarding to me telegrams from Erzeroum referring to the same subject.

I have communicated these documents to Safvet Pasha, and have urged upon him the importance of taking immediate steps for securing the lives and property of the Christians of Armenia, and of restoring confidence to them. His Highness has given me the most distinct assurances that measures will be adopted without delay with these objects. It is the intention of the Porte, his Highness stated to me this morning, to send at once a Commissioner or high officer of the Porte as a kind of Political Agent, an office which formerly existed in the Turkish Pashalics, to deal with questions connected with the condition and complaints of the populations. Ali Kunali Pasha will probably be appointed to this post. He will, I trust, be accompanied by an Armenian of influence and position, who will act as Assistant Commissioner, or in some such capacity, according to a promise made to me by the Sultan. It is further the intention of the Porte to proclaim "the state of siege" in the province, and to establish a Tribunal which will deal summarily with crimes and outrages committed against Christians, and punish their authors. I have strongly impressed upon Safvet Pasha the necessity of selecting for the functionaries about to be sent to Armenia, and for the members of the proposed Tribunal, upright, impartial, and capable men, in order that the Armenians may be convinced that they are to be dealt with justly and liberally, and may rely upon receiving, in case of need, protection and redress. His Highness declared himself resolved to take this course, and to give every satisfaction to the Christians.

Safvet Pasha expressed his opinion that the statements contained in the telegrams which I showed him were very much exaggerated, and that the fears of the Armenians were unfounded, and had been purposely excited with the object of inducing them to migrate into Russia. It is probable that such may be the case to a certain extent; but as there is no doubt that when the Russians occupied Erzeroum the Armenians availed themselves of the protection which they received to molest, ill-treat, and insult the Mahommedan population, it is not unnatural that on the departure of their protectors the Mussulmans should seek to revenge themselves. On this account it is especially necessary that the Porte and the local authorities should lose no time in adopting measures to prevent the outrages and excesses which the Kurds especially may be disposed to commit upon the Christians, to maintain order, and to guarantee

security for life and property. I have impressed this most urgently upon the Grand Vizier and the Sultan himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 496.

Monsignor Nerces to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Le 1/13 Septembre, 1878.*

C'EST avec une douleur excessive que j'ai l'honneur de soumettre, ci-jointe, à votre Excellence, copie d'un télégramme reçu de la part de la Province d'Erzéroum.

Si une intervention prompte et efficace ne se fasse humainement et Chrétiennement.

Si quelques jours passent sans que le mal soit prévenu, un massacre terrible aura lieu dans les mêmes endroits.

Je prie et supplie votre Excellence qu'elle veuille bien arranger sans retard tout ce qui est nécessaire à la reconnaissance éternelle de la nation Arménienne et de l'humble serviteur de votre Excellence.

(Signé) PATRIARCHE NERCES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 496.

Telegram from the Archbishop of Erzeroum and others to the Ambassadors of England, France, and Italy.

Le 1/13 Septembre, 1878.

MENACES Musulmans aboutirent émigration Chrétiens de Bayazid, Alachkerde, produirent panique sur habitants plaine et village; malgré tout effort basé sur vos dernières instructions pour calmer esprits les Musulmans, en vue de la retraite prochaine des Russes, commencent à répandre les gouttes vénimeuses de leur cœur sur leurs voisins les Chrétiens par des descentes avec effraction dans les maisons Chrétiennes, où ils se sont livrés à maintes actes de viol et d'attentat sur la vie, et frappant arme blanche les passants, et criant ouvertement qu'il ne restait que trois jours pour exercer les actes brutaux de leur dernière vengeance, pareils faits ayant eu lieu pendant l'occasion même, toute population Chrétienne sous l'influence de la terreur ayant fermé bazars et boutiques, sollicite sûreté d'honneur, de vie, et de biens. Réconciliation esprits devenue au-dessus de nos pouvoirs, parce que fanatisme Musulman est dicté par perturbateurs classe de clergé, et par comités secrets, et en lieux religieux. Implorons secours et intervention immédiate sous les formes que vous jugerez salutaires, et vous conjurons au nom du Christianisme et de l'humanité en répétant que les menaces sont graves et la terreur générale; le temps matériel nous fait défaut pour agir autrement. Attendons impatiemment l'honneur de votre réponse.

(Signé) ARCHEVEQUE ARGOUTIOUN.

Président Conseil-Général,
DANIEL KHADJIAN.
Président Conseil Religieux,
HAMAGOSP, Prêtre.
Président Conseil Administratif,
KÉVORK MEGUERDITCHIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 496.

Mr. Maynard to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Legation of the United States, Constantinople, September 14, 1878.*

I HAVE just received a despatch from Erzeroum in the following words, which I beg leave to submit for your consideration:—

"Ministre Américain, Constantinople, "*Erzéroum, le 12 Septembre.*

"Voici la panique que j'avais prévue et exposée précédemment. Les Turcs menacent ouvertement les Chrétiens; ils sont tellement excités par leur esprit vindi-

enfin qu'ils n'ont pas même patience pour un délai de trois jours, après quoi la retraite de l'armée Russe doit s'effectuer, et commencèrent dès à présent à s'installer sur les passages des routes, piller villages, et cette nuit même ils ont saccagé et en pénétrant dans des maisons en ville ils ont violé une femme; en vingt-quatre heures ils ont blessé quelques Chrétiens. Maintenant la panique s'est emparée de tous les Chrétiens; bazars fermés, et si mesures promptes et efficaces ne seront prises ses pour (?) de sûreté personnelle ni pour habitants ni pour nous; si possible que retraite Russe soit ajournée. Si vous désirez agissez au nom d'humanité pour sûreté des Chrétiens, ce dont nous vous serons reconnaissants avec tous les Chrétiens."

"Missionnaire Américain,
(Signé) "COLE."

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE MAYNARD.

No. 497.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 1143. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 16, 1878.

ON my return from my interview with the Sultan, which I have described in my Secret despatch No. 1139 of the 14th instant, I found your Lordship's Secret telegram of that morning, relating to the accusation against His Majesty of countenancing the insurgents in Albania and Bosnia. As I was very anxious that the Sultan should be fully impressed with the gravity of the present state of affairs, and should receive some intimation of the views of Her Majesty's Government with respect to it, it occurred to me that it would be desirable that I should find some means of recalling to His Majesty's attention the observations that I had submitted to him in our conversation on Saturday, which your Lordship will find were to a great extent in accordance with your Lordship's telegram. I accordingly wrote a private letter to Safvet Pasha, of which I inclose a copy, with the intention that he should show it to His Majesty. His Highness informed me this morning that he had quite understood and approved the object I had in view in writing the letter, and that he had at once sent a translation of it to the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 497.

Sir A. H. Layard to Safvet Pasha.

(Particulière et Confidentielle.)
Chère Altesse, *Thérapia, le* 15 *Septembre*, 1878.

J'AI voulu faire comprendre au Sultan, dans l'entretien dont Sa Majesté m'a honoré hier, le danger imminent auquel son Empire est exposé par son refus de s'entendre avec l'Autriche. La gravité de la situation ne peut être exagérée. On tâche, à l'heure qu'il est, de faire tomber toute la responsabilité de ce qui se passe en Bosnie et en Albanie sur Sa Majesté, qu'on accuse d'être en relation avec les insurgés dans ces provinces, et de les encourager secrètement dans leur résistance aux décisions du Traité de Berlin. Quoiqu'une pareille accusation ne peut être fondée elle donne lieu à de grands périls, et devrait recevoir le démenti le plus éclatant. L'Autriche, la Serbie, et le Monténégro sont sur le point de s'entendre entre eux. La Grèce se prépare à une invasion des territoires de Sa Majesté. Le Général Todleben a reçu les ordres de l'Empereur de suspendre l'embarcation de ses troupes. Le parti militaire et Slave qui domine actuellement à Vienne cherche un accord avec la Russie pour une partition de la Péninsule du Balkan.

Les dangers que j'ose vous indiquer, je prie votre Altesse instamment de le croire, ne sont pas imaginaires ou exagérés. Ils menacent l'existence même de l'Empire de Sa Majesté en Europe. Il n'y a qu'un seul moyen de les détourner—l'exécution sans délai de la part de la Sublime Porte du Traité de Berlin dans tous ses détails.

J'ai attiré l'attention de Sa Majesté à l'état de l'Armenie, et à la fuite de sa population Chrétienne devant la vengeance des Kurdes. Cette question est aussi des plus graves. J'implore votre Altesse de prendre toutes les mesures possibles pour éviter des événements qui pourraient exciter de nouveau contre la Turquie l'opinion publique de l'Europe. Le Vali de Kurdistan, Hakki Ismail Pacha, a été prouvé, par une enquête instituée par la Porte elle-même, un homme cruel et incapable de Gouverner les sujets de Sa Majesté avec justice. Il est Kurd, et il soutient les Chefs Kurdes dans leurs actes d'oppression et de cruauté envers les Chrétiens. Je vous laisse à juger, Altesse, l'impression qu'un massacre des Arméniens causerait en Angleterre. La Turquie ne pourrait plus compter, ni sur son alliance, ni sur sa sympathie.

J'ai osé avertir votre Altesse encore une fois des dangers qui menacent votre pays.

Je le fais en ami sincère de la Turquie. Votre Altesse ne peut douter, j'aime à l'espérer, de mes sentiments envers Sa Majesté et son peuple. Je ne vous aurais pas adressé cette lettre, que je vous autorise de soumettre à Sa Majesté si vous le croyez convenable, sans avoir des raisons bien fondées et très-graves pour justifier la démarche que je me permets de faire auprès de votre Altesse.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 498.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 1144.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of an article from an Armenian newspaper, the "Terdjoumani Efkiar," published in Turkish, which may be of interest to your Lordship as showing the state of public opinion with regard to the present condition of affairs in this unfortunate country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 498.

Extract from the "Terdjoumani Efkiar."

LA SITUATION PRÉSENTE.—Nous sommes obligés d'avouer à notre grand regret que notre situation politique ressemble à l'état d'un moribond dont les jours sont comptés pour l'observation du mieux ou du pire, et il est impossible que cette situation continue ainsi.

A vrai dire ce n'est pas le résultat que nous attendions après le Congrès; le Gouvernement a fait tous les sacrifices pour ramener la paix, il a écouté tous les conseils, il a donné tout ce qu'on lui a demandé. Il a donné à Anatolie, il a donné à Roumélie, il a accordé l'indépendance de trois Principautés et a agrandi leurs territoires, il a créé une nouvelle Principauté, il a donné naissance à une nouvelle province privilégiée, tout cela a été fait dans une seule intention et pour atteindre un seul but—le retour de la paix. Tous ces sacrifices ont été faits, mais la paix n'est pas revenue et il n'est pas sûr qu'elle reviendra.

L'Europe ne saurait nier que si une partie de ces sacrifices étaient faits pour notre avantage, une grande partie visait leur propre intérêt. Chypre et Bosnie prouvent bien cela, et peut-être même pourra-t-on y ajouter les résultats des questions de la Grèce et de la Crète. En tout cas l'Europe n'a pas manqué d'avouer que ces sacrifices n'étaient pas seulement demandés pour nous, mais aussi pour elle-même.

C'est l'abnégation des Musulmans qui a épargné à l'Europe les calamités d'une guerre générale. Tandis que l'Europe devait perdre sa tranquillité, c'est nous qui avons perdu la nôtre. Les Souverains et les Chefs de la politique Européenne s'amusent dans les bains, aux chasses, et dans les festins; tandis que les nôtres souffrent et personne n'a l'air de s'en soucier. On demande, on demande et toujours on demande, et encore on demande, demande-t-on notre vie aussi, car il ne nous reste que cela.

Il y a plus de deux mois que le Congrès est fini, et rien n'a été fait; nous n'avons

pas pu renvoyer un seul soldat dans son pays, et ni diminuer un para de nos frais. Nous avons devant nous l'hiver, et notre Trésor est vide; des centaines de mille d'habitants de Roumélie sont debout, nos revenus sont entre les mains des étrangers, la Servie et le Monténégro s'arment de nouveau, les deux tiers de Roumélie occupés, la misère et la pauvreté augmentent de tout côté. Quel sera notre fin? Nous n'en savons rien.

En pensant à tout cela, on perd son sommeil; nous pataugeons dans une crise terrible; quel en sera le résultat, bon ou mauvais, Dieu seul le sait.

Si l'Europe est notre amie, qu'attend-elle encore pour nous en donner la preuve? qu'elle se donne la peine de se mouvoir, qu'elle intervienne entre l'Autriche et la Bosnie, qu'elle trouve un moyen de la mettre d'accord, qu'elle rassure les Albanais, qu'elle tranche et finisse la question Grecque. Chaque jour que nous traversons aujourd'hui sans rien faire, nous enlève l'existence de dix ans; l'Europe ne sait-elle pas cela?

Si elle est notre ennemie, qu'elle se déclare alors, pour que nous puissions savoir ce qui nous reste à faire. Tel est notre dernier cri de détresse et notre dernier écho, que nous ne devons pas seulement entendre nous-mêmes, mais que nous devons faire entendre à l'Europe. Nous devons être encore plus et même beaucoup plus courageux dans nos affaires politiques extérieures et nous devons faire un dernier effort.

L'homme en face d'un grand danger peut se trouver dans deux dispositions; ou il se trouble, s'évanouit, et tombe, ou bien il acquiert un grand courage et se sauve du péril qui le menace. C'est ce que nous devons faire à présent et c'est là notre salut.

Nous devons mettre de côté toutes dissensions, toutes querelles, et toutes arrière-pensées intérieures et personnelles, et nous devons trouver l'homme adapté pour chaque affaire et pour chaque situation et travailler ensemble. Il n'est pas temps de laisser une partie des forces nationales dans l'inertie et de n'user que de l'autre partie. Les malheurs qui nous ont assaillis ne sont pas la conséquence de la faute d'un homme, de cinq hommes, de dix hommes, pour qu'il soit possible de nous venger sur eux; la faute est à nous tous; nous devons donc tous tâcher d'obvier et de remédier à cet état de choses.

C'est le moment où jamais que chacun doit servir la patrie dans les limites de son pouvoir et où la patrie a besoin des services de tous.

Nous voulons dire que nous ne devons pas nous attendre à des largesses et des gracieusetés; mais il est temps de travailler, de rendre service, et ensuite attendre ces marques de bienveillance.

Si nous pouvons comprendre cela, nous pouvons aussi peut-être rendre quelque service. Qui sert la patrie avec son argent, qui par son intelligence, qui par ses facultés corporelles. C'est le moment de ne rien perdre et de profiter de tout cela, et nous croyons que c'est le seul moyen d'améliorer notre état dans nos jours qui sont comptés.

No. 499.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 1145.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 16, 1878.

I HAVE stated to your Lordship in previous despatches that from information which has reached me, from apparently trustworthy sources, there is reason to believe that Russian Agents have been employed for some time past amongst the Armenians in different parts of Asia Minor with the object of producing discontent against the Turkish Government, and of inducing them to leave the country when the Russian forces are withdrawn from that part of Armenia occupied by them since the end of the war, and about to be restored to the Porte under the Treaty of Berlin.

The Armenians have been led to believe that as soon as they are no longer under the immediate protection of Russia they will be exposed to ill-treatment and outrages on the part of the Mussulmans, and especially the Kurds, and that the only means left of obtaining security for their property and lives is to pass into Russian territory.

There is no doubt that in consequence of these intrigues a considerable agitation exists amongst the Armenians in all parts of Turkey in Asia, which has been greatly increased by telegrams from Erzeroum and elsewhere describing in very exaggerated language the ill-treatment to which the Christians are already subjected, and the

danger to which they are exposed from the Kurds who, it is asserted, are preparing to massacre them as soon as the Russians evacuate the city. It is stated that a general panic prevails amongst the Christians in Armenia, and that a large number of them have already crossed the Russian frontiers, and that still more are preparing to follow them. I have had many representations on the subject from influential Armenians, including the Patriarch and several functionaries of the Porte.

There can be little doubt that the proceedings attributed to Russia are meant to promote a design on her part to cause a state of things amongst the Armenian population similar to that which she succeeded in producing in Bulgaria and Roumelia for the purpose of undermining and destroying the authority and rule of the Porte in Turkey in Europe. She is having recourse to her usual intrigues to create discontent and disorder, and to impress upon the Armenians, through secret Agents, and through that part of the Armenian press which she has at her command, that they must look to her alone for their delivery from the Ottoman yoke, and that from no other Power can they expect sympathy and help.

Charges of cruelty and oppression on the part of the Mussulmans are either invented or greatly exaggerated, and the fears of the ignorant and timid Armenian population are excited by the propagation of all manner of alarming reports, whilst attempts are not wanting to bring about collisions with the authorities and between the Mussulmans and Christians which may give the pretext for Russian interference.

Although the events which are occurring in Armenia, and the danger to the Armenian population when the Russian troops retire, are probably very much exaggerated with the object that I have described, there is, at the same time, the most urgent necessity that the Porte should take immediate and effective measures to maintain order in the country, and to ensure proper protection to all classes of the population as soon as the Turkish authorities and troops replace those of Russia. I took occasion this morning to urge upon the Grand Vizier, as strongly as I was able, that such measures should be adopted without loss of time. I pointed out to him the serious consequences that would inevitably ensue if a massacre of Christians took place after the Russian army had withdrawn, or if they were the victims of outrages on the part of the Kurds or others. The public feeling of Europe would be again excited against Turkey, who would be held responsible for all that might occur, and her enemies would again avail themselves of the opportunity to denounce the Turkish Government as incapable of governing Christians with justice, and to accuse it of deliberately aiming at their extermination. Under such circumstances, and in the event of an insurrection in Armenia, the Porte could hope for no help nor sympathy from Her Majesty's Government in opposition to public opinion.

Safvet Pasha professed himself fully alive to the dangers that I had described, and declared emphatically that it was the firm intention of the Porte to put into execution the measures which the Sultan had indicated to me, viz., the appointment of a High Commissioner to assist in the administration of the province, and to watch especially over the safety of the Christians; the nomination of an Armenian of position and influence to act with him; and the proclamation of martial law and the establishment of a tribunal to deal summarily with crimes and offences against Christians and others. He mentioned the names of several Armenian functionaries at the Porte who might be employed as Assistant Commissioner; but he had not made up his mind as to the choice of the person.

Safvet Pasha said that, in consequence of the territorial changes which had taken place in Armenia, it would be necessary to form a new vilayet, as a large part of that of Erzeroum had been ceded to Russia. It was probable that Erzinghian would be the capital of the new province. Erzeroum was too near the Russian frontiers. No line of defence had been left to Turkey on that side; the Congress having given to Russia the Soghanlu range, and the other positions which would have enabled Turkey to oppose with success the entry of a Russian army into Asia Minor. Moreover, Erzeroum had been deprived by the Treaty of Berlin of her forests, upon which she depended entirely for fuel—an absolute necessity in that lofty region. Under these circumstances, the city must fall into ruin, and could no longer be the capital of a considerable and important vilayet. Erzinghian seemed to offer the most favourable conditions for replacing it.

I suggested to Safvet Pasha that the change to which he had referred might furnish the occasion for forming a large frontier Government, including that part of Asia Minor which was chiefly inhabited by Armenians, and the district of Van.

When I urged the importance of preventing the threatened emigration of Armenians to Russia, and the loss that the departure of an industrious and peaceable

population would be to Turkey, Safvet Pasha remarked that, after all, the loss might not be so great as I imagined. As I took no notice of this observation, he assumed that I did not understand him, and repeated it, adding that I must be aware that there were some who were of opinion that it would be rather to the advantage than otherwise of Turkey that she should be relieved from a Christian population which might become hereafter a fresh source of trouble and danger to her, by inviting foreign interference, and that the Porte would do well to imitate the example set to it by Russia in Bulgaria. His Highness assured me that such was not his view. He believed the Armenians to be very useful to Turkey, and that it was to her interest to protect them, and to encourage them to remain faithful subjects of the Sultan. If they accompanied the Russians he should pity them, and he felt sure that they would soon find out their mistake, to their cost.

I have mentioned Safvet Pasha's remarks on this subject, as I am aware that there are amongst the Turks persons of considerable weight and influence who would be very glad to see the exodus of the whole Christian population of Armenia, by which, they believe, Turkey would be delivered from much future foreign interference.

I would venture to suggest that no time should now be lost in either sending back Consul Zohrab to Armenia, or naming a new Consul in his place. The presence of a British Consul always acts as a check upon the Turkish authorities, and as a protection to the Christians. It is now urgently required at this moment at Erzeroum, or at Erzinghian, if the seat of Government is to be at the latter place. It is also essential that Her Majesty's Government should be fully and accurately informed as to all that is passing in Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 500.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 1146.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 17, 1878.

THE Staff-Surgeon of the Fleet under Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby has recently been to parts of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria which have not been visited by travellers since the Russian occupation. The Admiral has been good enough to give me a Report which Dr. Buckle has addressed to him upon his journey. I have ventured to make one or two extracts from it, which I inclose. They are interesting as giving the result of the observations of a strictly impartial and independent inquirer. They confirm, in most respects, the information as to the treatment of the Mussulman population by the Russians and Bulgarians which reach me from so many different sources, and they furnish additional evidence as to the manner in which Russian functionaries openly express their conviction that it is not the intention of their Government to withdraw from the territories it has occupied until it has brought them completely under its influence and control, and has entirely extirpated the Mussulman element.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 500.

Extract from Staff-Surgeon Buckle's Report on East Roumelia.

EVERY village we passed between Adrianople and Philippopolis was more or less destroyed, and all the solitary farms had been wrecked. There were no people in the fields; but in the partially rebuilt farms harvest work was going on actively, and the crops appeared to be very good.

So much of Philippopolis had been destroyed that it was difficult to recognize the streets. The large Turkish café opposite the Hotel de Moscow, and the two houses next to it, were being pulled down over the owner's heads, and the woodwork used for firewood. The unfortunate Turks' appeals were answered by laughter or blows. Most of the Turkish houses had been destroyed, and those remaining were only left

because they were either worthless or not wanted. Over the bridge, Turkish quarter, scarcely a house remained, none undamaged; while to the right of the bridge there was a complete clearance of many acres, where the blackened earth-marks, or a few bricks from a chimney, were the only indications of the sites of the recently densely crowded town. Thousands of poor Turks were living amongst these ruins, the families hanging up blankets or matting to screen off spaces for themselves; they were all clothed, the women decently, but few appeared to have anything beyond the thin cotton coverings they wore. By a recent regulation they are not allowed to cross the bridge, and as the authorities all live on the other side the river they have no means of making any complaints. Of course the Bulgarians at the bridge will not do anything except ill-treat and abuse them. As an instance, about the 10th of August nine men and three women got passes from the Russians to go over the river to work and earn something. They went, but on returning were stopped by the Bulgarian police, put into prison for twenty-four hours, their money taken, and after a severe beating dismissed with a caution not to go to the Russian authorities again. What are these miserable people to do? Starve and die out! For the Russian officers afterwards joked greatly about this case—"it will teach the dogs to turn Christians or go," meaning that they must become slaves or die. The Jewish and Greek shopkeepers will not speak Turkish, nor will they understand it, fearing to be thought sympathisers with the fallen race; they cannot be sure of any one, there are so many secret police informants everywhere. The new Bulgarian recruits are only too anxious to show their zeal for the new cause by so congenial an occupation as denouncing a former enemy for imaginary crimes. The new newspaper called the "Maritza," edited by Dr. Natcherich, is much more Russian than even Bulgarian, and though it is welcomed as a national organ, is looked upon with some suspicion by the more intelligent people. The use of the fez was limited to the poorest people, who probably had no means of getting another head dress to save them from the insults and injury it drew down upon them.

We were at the English Consulate with a surgeon of the Imperial Guard, when the Bulgarian Petition to the English Government, purporting to have been signed by the representatives of ninety-four villages was presented. It was written in Bulgarian, but had been translated into English by the younger Geshoff, and corrected by his father. It was addressed to Mr. Consul Calvert, to be sent to the Imperial Government; accused England of having divided Bulgaria and sacrificed the Christian population to British interests, immediately after stating that the meaning of the term "British interests" was quite unknown; prayed for a modification of the Treaty of Berlin, or a return to that of San Stefano, or that a grand united autonomous kingdom might be formed for the Balkan Slavs, and ended in an appeal to the British nation—"the protectors of oppressed nationalities"—to support the Christians against their late tyrants, under whose rule they were afraid of again falling. The members of the deputation were a very mixed and ragged lot of villagers; the majority did not appear to know what the Petition was for, but all were most anxious to bring their individual wrongs before the Consul, and obtain some assistance from him, in some cases quite the reverse of the spirit of their Memorial, about which they showed little interest, giving us the idea that being able to speak to the Consul was sufficient recompense for having signed anything they were told to.

2. On the north side the Pass, over the double villages of Rozin, we entered the richly cultivated plain of Sophia. Many people were working in the fields gathering crops, but almost all the houses, or farm-buildings, had been wrecked. No Turks were visible to claim their crops, so that any one who could "square" the Russians or Bulgarian police could gather the harvest. The fiction of the "Government taking care" of one-half for the real, the absent owners, was too transparent to cause anything but laughter. Entering the city by the south road, the first buildings of importance are the six blocks of white and red brick barracks, once used by the Stafford House and other hospitals; then the konak (now dilapidated and windowless) opposite the prettily laid-out gardens. Beyond them in the city is ruin. About one house in three has been wrecked and the woodwork taken by the Christians for their own purposes. Filth, misery, starvation, and misrule meet one at every step. There seems to be no law except the arbitrary will of the Russian General. The Bulgarians are insolent in the extreme, knowing the Russians at present find them too useful in pandering to their passions to notice any complaint against them. I was told that 5,000 Turks remained concealed in cellars in the city, not daring to come out to work or get food, fearing being taken, beaten, or killed with impunity by the Bulgarians. The women are taken for the vilest purposes, and the men made to work for nothing,

thrashed, or shot, and no appeals are listened to. The atrocities being committed now on the unfortunate Mussulmans in this district are worse than those which startled Europe, two years ago. Yet because the perpetrators are Orthodox Christians, and the sufferers belong to another faith, they are allowed, nay, encouraged by the "holy people." The Bulgarians are trying to spread terror amongst the Turks to prevent them returning to their lands. Evidence of this was given me on all sides. Some few have accepted the alternative of turning Christians, only to find themselves worse off if possible than before. It is a fight to drive the Turks out altogether, the Bulgars to have the lands, and the Russians to have the taxes.

The harvest was excellent. Hay was selling at 2 paras per oke, and barley at 10 paras for the same quantity. The Russian horses sold recently had realized very good prices; from 5*l.* to 8*l.* for the condemned cavalry horses—considerably dearer than in Constantinople. Large contracts for fodder had been entered into at extremely small prices. Very many Russian officers had their wives and families with them, and none seemed to think they would leave the country for a very long time, "or until the next war," for all appeared to feel sure that war must come. Lady Strangford's hospital—the large block of building in the centre of the town (now painted bright blue)—where so much good work was done during the war, had reverted to its original use as a school, though it is much too large for the number of children now attending.

3. We journeyed through a swampy plain to Tatar-Bazardjik—a miserable jumble of half wrecked mud and lath houses, half burnt by the Bulgars and half by the Turks. The Bulgarians were busy re-erecting, scarcely rebuilding, it is not worthy of the term, their houses. The Petkoff-Khan had been burnt down, and the owner was in prison. The French hotel had shared the same fate. The Khan de Macédoine was quite full of Russo-Bulgarian officers, and quite too filthy to stay in. The Star Planina was, if possible, worse. At the Hotel Français they had made an attempt at erecting a theatre. It looked like a big rough deal box without a lid, open to the garden, and was "brilliantly illuminated" by one petroleum lamp! Failing better, we got a share of a room half filled up by Russian baggage, on which some privates, who were acting as officers' servants, slept. About a dozen Captains, second Captains, and Lieutenants of the 31st and other line regiments were there awaiting orders about the new Bulgarian army. As they could not, from pecuniary reasons, obtain field rank in the regular Russian service, the formation of the new corps was an immediate gain to them a step in rank, a rise in pay, if they ever got the latter practically. They were all in great spirits hoping for the early "commencement of the war," which they looked upon as certain as soon as the "National army" was ready; and they frequently repeated, and coarsely put, jokes, about the assistance the Turks would get from England or anyone else. Clearly showed how much they relied on the Gladstonians to further their nation's cause, that they would have a "strong united Bulgaria," including Roumania, Servia, Bosnia, the Herzegovina, Montenegro, Greece, and European Turkey, was with them a certainty. Their only difference of opinion being as to the amount of Russian "protection" considered necessary. There were no Turks to be seen, and all the shopkeepers spoke Russian or Bulgarian, and would not understand Turkish. The idea of the Turks returning to their farms was looked upon as a great joke; "we have the power of driving them into Asia and we mean to use it" was the key-note of all their arguments.

No. 501.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 1148. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the draft of the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey, which Prince Labanoff has been instructed by his Government to present to the Porte for its acceptance. I have noted upon it the alterations which, I am informed, Safvet Pasha will propose to the Russian Ambassador. Moreover, the Porte requires additional Articles to the following effect:—

1. That a European Commission shall be appointed for the delimitation of the frontiers of Montenegro, in accordance with the 1st Article of the Treaty of San Stefano.

2. That a Turco-Servian Commission shall be appointed for a similar purpose.

3. That a Turco-Russian Commission shall be appointed for the delimitation of the new Asiatic frontier.

4. That the second paragraph of the XXIst Article of the Treaty of San Stefano, relating to real property (*biens immeubles*) belonging to the Porte in the property ceded to Russia, shall be reproduced in the proposed Treaty.

5. That the XXVIIIth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano, referring to the mode of payment of the expense for the maintenance of the Turkish prisoners, shall also be reproduced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 501.

Projet de Traité de Paix définitif entre la Russie et la Turquie.

SA Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, &c., &c., &c., et Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Ottomans, &c., &c., &c.

Désirant consacrer le rétablissement de la paix entre les deux Empires, en transformant en Traité définitif le Traité Préliminaire de Paix conclu entre eux à San Stéfano le 19 Février, 1878, conformément à ce qui a été convenu par l'Article XXIX dit Traité Préliminaire,

Ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires

lesquels, après avoir échangé leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont tombés d'accord sur les Articles suivants:—

ARTICLE I.

Il y aura désormais paix et amitié entre les deux Empires sur la base des arrangements stipulés par le Traité Préliminaire de San Stéfano, tels qu'ils ont été révisés, modifiés, et arrêtés par le Traité conclu à Berlin le $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet, 1878, avec la participation et la sanction des Grandes Puissances Signataires des Traités de 1856 et 1871.

ARTICLE II.

Le Traité de Berlin et les Protocoles qui y sont annexés étant destinés à remplacer le Traité Préliminaire de San Stéfano pour toutes les questions que le Congrès de Berlin a examinées, discutées, et résolues comme étant d'un intérêt général Européen, le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie et la Sublime Porte s'engagent à envisager ce Traité comme réciproquement obligatoire entre eux, aussi bien que vis-à-vis de toutes les Grandes Puissances Signataires, à l'exécuter fidèlement et à l'observer scrupuleusement dans sa lettre comme dans son esprit, afin d'en faire la base d'une paix solide et durable entre les deux Empires.

ARTICLE III.

Les stipulations spéciales du Traité Préliminaire de San Stéfano qui n'ont pas été abrogées ou modifiées par le Traité de Berlin [ou par suite d'une entente entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Sublime Porte*] sont maintenues et confirmées par les deux Gouvernements comme ayant même force et valeur, que si elles étaient insérées dans le Traité définitif de Paix.

ARTICLE IV.

Conformément à ces stipulations spéciales, il est entendu:—

(*a.*) Que, défalcation faite de la valeur des territoires cédés par la Turquie à la Russie en conformité du Traité de Berlin, l'indemnité de guerre reste fixée à la somme de 300,000,000 roubles.† Le mode de paiement de cette somme et la garantie à y affecter (sauf les réserves mentionnées dans le Protocole 11 du Congrès de Berlin) seront réglés par une entente entre le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie et celui de Sa Majesté le Sultan (Article XIX de San Stéfano).

* Porte proposes to omit words within brackets.
† Porte proposes to add "papier" after "roubles."

(*b.*) Que les 10,000,000 de roubles réclamés comme indemnité pour les sujets et institutions Russes en Turquie, seront payés à mesure que les réclamations des intéressés seront examinées par l'Ambassade de Russie à Constantinople et transmises à la Sublime Porte (même Article de San Stéfano).

(*c.*) Que la Sublime Porte affecte une somme de 500,000 francs au rétablissement de la navigabilité du passage de Soulina et au dédommagement des particuliers dont les biens auraient souffert du fait de la guerre et de l'interruption de la navigation sur le Danube. Cette somme de 500,000 francs sera prise sur celles qui sont dues à la Sublime Porte par la Commission Danubienne. [Il est par conséquent entendu que le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie se décharge de toute responsabilité quant aux indemnités rentrant dans cette catégorie (Article XIII du Traité de San Stéfano).]*

(*d.*) Que les habitants des localités cédées à la Russie, qui voudraient fixer leur résidence hors de ces territoires, seront libres de se retirer en vendant leurs propriétés immobilières. Un délai de trois ans leur sera accordé à cet effet à partir de la ratification du présent Acte.

Passé ce délai, les habitants qui n'auraient pas quitté le pays et vendu leurs immeubles resteront sujets Russes (Article XXI du Traité de San Stéfano).

(*e.*) Que tant que les troupes Impériales Russes séjourneront dans les localités qui, en vertu des Traités de San Stéfano et de Berlin, doivent être restituées à la Sublime Porte, l'administration et l'ordre des choses resteront dans le même état que depuis l'occupation. La Sublime Porte ne devra y prendre aucune part durant tout ce temps et jusqu'à l'entière sortie de toutes les troupes. Les troupes Ottomanes ne devront entrer dans les localités qui seront restituées à la Sublime Porte, et cette dernière ne pourra commencer à y exercer son autorité que lorsque pour chaque place et province qui aura été évacuée par les troupes Russes, le Commandant de ces troupes en aura donné connaissance à l'officier désigné à cet effet de la part de la Sublime Porte (Article XXVI du Traité de San Stéfano, sans [7 sous] réserve des stipulations de Berlin concernant la Roumélie Orientale).

(*f.*) Que l'évacuation par l'armée Russe de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale étant réglée par le Traité de Berlin,† et la retraite des troupes Russes de la Turquie d'Asie étant subordonnée aux arrangements arrêtés par le même Traité, l'Article XXV du Traité de San Stéfano concernant le terme et le mode des opérations d'évacuation fera l'objet d'une entente définitive entre les deux Gouvernements.

(*g.*) Que la Porte prend l'engagement de ne sévir d'aucune manière contre les sujets Ottomans qui auraient été compromis par leurs relations avec l'armée Russe pendant la guerre. Dans le cas où quelques personnes voudraient se retirer avec leurs familles à la suite des armées Russes les autorités Ottomanes ne s'opposeront pas à leur départ (Article XXVIII du Traité de San Stéfano).

(*h.*) Qu'une amnistie pleine et entière est accordée par la Sublime Porte à tous les sujets Ottomans compromis dans les derniers événements, et que toutes les personnes détenues de ce fait, ou envoyées en exil, seront immédiatement mises en liberté (Article XXVII du Traité de San Stéfano).

(*i.*) Que tous les Traités, Conventions, et Engagements conclus entre les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes relativement au commerce, à la juridiction, et à la position des sujets Russes en Turquie, et qui auraient été supprimés par l'état de guerre, seront remis en vigueur, sauf les clauses auxquelles il serait dérogé par le présent Acte, ou par le Traité de Berlin. Les deux Gouvernements seront remplacés, l'un vis-à-vis de l'autre pour tous leurs engagements et rapports commerciaux et autres dans la même situation où ils se trouvaient avant la déclaration de la guerre (Article XXVIII du Traité de San Stéfano).

ARTICLE V.

Les affaires litigieuses pendantes des sujets Russes seront déférées à des arbitres et surarbitres nommés par la Sublime Porte et par l'Ambassade Impériale de Russie à Constantinople, et chargés de juger des dites contestations souverainement et en dernier ressort. La Sublime Porte s'engage à dédommager, s'il y a lieu, les sujets Russes et à faire exécuter sans délai les sentences rendues par la voie susmentionnée

* Porte proposes to omit paragraphs between brackets.

† The Porte requires that the term of the occupation of the territory which is to be restored to Turkey, according to the XXVth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano, should be limited to three months in Europe and six in Asia.

de l'arbitrage, aussi bien que celles qui ont été rendues précédemment mais qui ne sont pas encore exécutées. (En place de l'Article XX du Traité de San Stéfano.)*

Le présent Acte sera ratifié dans l'espace de semaines ou plus tôt si faire se peut.

En fait de quoi les Plénipotentiaires de Russie et Turquie y ont apposé leurs signatures et le sceau de leurs armes.

Fait à la

No. 502.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 1151. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 18, 1878.*

MAHZAR PASHA, the late Governor-General of Bosnia, who is just returned to Constantinople, called upon me two days ago to thank me for the support that I have occasionally been able to give him at the Porte, and to explain to me his conduct during recent events in the province. Your Lordship will remember that Mahzar Pasha, accompanied by Constant Pasha, the Christian Mushteshar, were able to escape with difficulty from that part of the population of Bosna-Seraï which had risen against the Turkish authorities in order to oppose the entry of the Austrian troops. He informs me that he lost everything in his flight, and that his life was in the greatest danger. It was saved through the interference of some of the Mussulman notables of the city.

Mahzar Pasha gave me the most distinct and positive assurances that the instructions he had received from the Porte were not to resist in any way whatever the Austrian occupation, but to use his utmost endeavours to calm the public excitement, and to reconcile the Mussulman and Christian population to it. Similar instructions, he says, were sent to the authorities under him, and it was in carrying them out faithfully and loyally that many of them fell victims to the popular fury, and that he himself and Constant Pasha nearly shared the same fate.

His Excellency expressed his opinion that, if the Austrian Government had been less precipitate in sending its troops across the frontier, and had shown more consideration for the very difficult position in which the Porte was placed, the whole population would have been brought to accept the occupation of the province, which would then have been effected without bloodshed. Had the time been given to the Turkish authorities, which they earnestly requested, they would have been able to reconcile the Mussulmans to the entry of the Austrian army. He cited, in proof of this opinion, the surrender of Batoum to Russia, which the Porte had been able to bring about peaceably, notwithstanding the excitement amongst the Lazes, and their threatened opposition, because time had been allowed it to carry out the necessary measures. He threw a good deal of blame for what had occurred in Bosnia upon the Austrian Consul at Bosna-Seraï, and upon his dragoman, a certain Toma. They had, he said, greatly irritated the population by their imprudent language. He had entreated them in vain to be more circumspect, and not to give the Mussulmans to understand that it was the intention of Austria to annex their country.

Mahzar Pasha divided the population of the province into three classes:—

1. The national party, who are opposed to its occupation, and, consequently, still more so to its annexation by Austria, and who desire to remain a part of the Ottoman Empire as heretofore, and are determined to resist the Austrians as long as possible. This party, which includes a large portion of the Mussulman population, and no small part of the "Orthodox" Christian, may give the Austrians a good deal of trouble by persisting in a kind of desultory guerilla warfare, for which the mountainous and wooded nature of the country is particularly favourable.

2. The party in favour of "autonomy," but not of complete independence, which includes a large portion of the Christians professing the Greek faith. This party is supported by Servia, whose intrigues will maintain a constant agitation in the province against the Austrian rule. It will, therefore, probably be the cause of considerable embarrassment, if not of danger, to Austria, especially if the national party unite with it.

3. The party favourable to annexation to Austria, which chiefly consists of

* The Porte requires that this stipulation should be replaced by the XXth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano.

the Catholic population, and is encouraged and supported by the Catholic clergy. This party, Mahzar Pasha believes, is at present in a great minority. Mahzar Pasha described Hadji Loya to me as an ignorant fanatic, who was a mere tool in the hands of others. The real leader of the armed resistance against Austria was the Mufti of Taslidja, who had great influence over the Mussulman population, and was a man of considerable capacity. Mahzar Pasha is of opinion that the Austrians will meet with considerable difficulties before they can restore order in the country, crush the opposition to their rule, and firmly establish their authority. These difficulties, he thinks, have been much increased by the cruel and unjust manner in which they have treated the Mussulman population, whom it would have been good policy on their part to do their utmost to conciliate. He spoke highly of the conduct of Her Majesty's Consul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 503.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.

(No. 1152. Confidential.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 19, 1878.

I INVITED the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, Mousignor Nerces, to call upon me, in order that I might consult him with reference to the measures proposed to be taken by the Porte (as described in my despatch No. 1,144 of the 18th instant) in order to protect the Armenians against the excesses of the Kurds and retaliation from the Mussulmans on the withdrawal of the Russian forces from Erzeroum. His Eminence expressed his conviction that they were not sufficient to reassure the Christians, to afford them efficient protection, or to satisfy them as to the intentions of the Porte to give them the reforms that they claimed. The only thing, he declared, that could induce the Armenians to refrain from listening to the advice of Russia to emigrate, and to be content to remain under the rule of the Sultan, would be the appointment of an Armenian as Vali of Armenia.

I replied to his Eminence that however desirable it would be to have a Christian Governor-General of provinces inhabited by Armenians, and although I might be prepared to urge such an appointment hereafter upon the Porte, I was of opinion that the time had not yet come for it. The first thing now necessary was to restore order in the east of Asia Minor, and to take effective measures to disarm and keep under control the Kurdish tribes. The Kurds would resent the nomination of a Christian to rule over them; and if, at the present moment, they were to rise in arms to oppose it, great embarrassment would be caused to the Porte, and serious consequences might ensue to the Christians. I begged him, therefore, to use his influence to induce the Armenians to wait patiently until the authority of the Porte was fully re-established in the territories from which Russia was about to withdraw, and to give their support to the measures proposed by the Turkish Government.

His Eminence answered that he felt himself in great difficulties, as the Armenians accused him of having misled them, and of having prevented their availing themselves of the offer made to them by Russia of joining her in the late war, which, had it been accepted, would have insured for them complete independence, or at least "autonomy," as it had secured independence for the Bulgarians. Nothing would now convince them that the Porte was prepared to give them the amount of self-government they demanded except the appointment of an Armenian Governor. It would be very difficult to persuade any Armenian of influence or position to accept the subordinate office of an Assistant Commissioner, as he would have no real voice in the administration or settlement of affairs. If it were impossible, however, to obtain the nomination of an Armenian Vali, the only alternative was the appointment of a European Commission to superintend the execution of measures necessary for the protection of the Christians, and the introduction of the promised reforms.

His Eminence ended by saying that he would consult his "nation" with respect to what I had said to him, and by submitting to me the names of several Armenian functionaries at the Porte who would be competent to fill the office of Assistant Commissioner, and who would enjoy the confidence of the Armenian community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 504.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 1153.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 19, 1878.

I RECEIVED some time ago a letter from an American missionary in the centre of Asia Minor, with whom I am in correspondence, and who frequently sends me useful information, respecting acts of oppression committed by the Mussulman Beys upon the Christians of the district of Geghi. I brought the facts mentioned by this gentleman to the notice of Safvet Pasha, who promised that an inquiry should at once be made with respect to them, and if the accusations against the Beys were proved, that they should be punished.

I subsequently learnt from my correspondent that the promise given me by his Highness had been fulfilled, and that a functionary had arrived in the district to examine into the complaints of the Christians, but that he had been gained over by the persons whose conduct he had been sent to investigate, and that the Christians had, in consequence of threats made against them, been afraid to give the evidence required of them.

I informed Safvet Pasha of what had occurred, and he at once gave orders that the Commissioner, who had, it appears, left Geghi without affording redress to the Christians, should return to the district and resume the investigation into their grievances. It appears from the extract of a letter from my correspondent, which I inclose, that his Highness' orders have been so far obeyed. I bring this case to your Lordship's notice, as it shows that there is no lack of will on the part of the Porte to do justice to and protect the Christians, but that, unfortunately, it cannot depend upon its functionaries to do their duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 504.

Extract of Letter addressed to Sir A. H. Layard, dated August 30, 1878.

YOUR Excellency has listened so patiently to my narrative of affairs in Geghi that I consider myself under a sort of obligation to keep you informed of the progress of events.

Perhaps in some of my letters, written several weeks ago, I informed your Excellency that a Commissioner, Osman Effendi by name, had been sent from Erzinghian to examine into the complaints there; that he appeared to be a just person, anxious to do right, but that he was overruled by others, and left for Erzinghian. He has now returned to Geghi again, invested with full authority by the Commissioner who has been sent from Constantinople to Erzinghian (Ali Sholik Bey is his name, I believe), and he is endeavouring to investigate affairs thoroughly.

At first no complaints appeared, through fear; but Osman Effendi has assured them of full protection, and now they are beginning to come in crowds. The Commandant of the soldiers, Tahir Bey, whom I have previously mentioned as a violent partizan of the Geghi Beys, began to use threats to prevent people from making complaints; but Osman Effendi, on hearing it, was on the point of sending a report of his conduct to Erzinghian, and Tahir Bey humbly pleads to be forgiven.

Ismail Bey, the Kaimakam, is suspended from office, and called to Erzinghian; so that the present outlook is hopeful for the partial proof of the severe outrages which these Beys have committed.

Whether any due measure of justice shall be meted out to them is another matter.

It is understood in Geghi that this new investigation has been undertaken by the initiative of your Excellency.

No. 505.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 1154.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Calvert, stating that a monster demonstration is to be held on the arrival of the International Commission, with the object of protesting against remaining part of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 505.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, September* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have learnt on good authority that secret instructions were sent round to the Bulgarian Kyr-Aghalary, or officers of the rural police, three days ago from the office of the Bulgarian Archbishop, enjoining them to incite the Bulgarian peasantry to come to town *en masse*, and make a monster demonstration against re-annexation to Turkey, on the arrival of the International Commission.

If your Excellency will authorize me to spend 30*l.* or 40*l.*, I hope to be able to obtain a copy of these instructions, as well as to gain access to special secret sources of information in regard to the underhand proceedings which are now undoubtedly being brought into play to frustrate the objects of the International Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 506.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 1155.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert, reporting upon the sanitary condition of Philippopolis, and the cruel treatment of Arif and Shahban Aghas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

Inclosure 1 in No. 506.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, September* 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that typhus and typhoid fever now no longer exist here in an epidemic form, and that the general health both of the Russian troops and of the town population is good.

Many Turkish returned refugees continue, however, to succumb to the effects of their past and present privations.

Although the cattle disease disappeared from this province some time ago, I learn that it still prevails in a virulent form in the Province of Sofia.

No precautions appear to be taken by the Russian authorities to prevent its re-spreading to this neighbourhood, as I am informed that oxen for slaughter are being brought down here from Sofia without hindrance.

Out of forty-five oxen brought down by one dealer yesterday, fifteen are said to have died before the evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 506.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, September* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, as I am informed, an order for the release of Arif and Shahban Aghas was received here from San Stefano the day before yesterday; but that the only result of the order, as regards these unfortunate notables, has been that they have been loaded with the heaviest irons in the prison, and removed into a narrow, dark, and stinking cell, where they have barely room to lie down.

I learn that Hadji Shahban Agha is rapidly sinking under this cruel treatment, and his friends fear that he will die unless he be soon restored to liberty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 507.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 1156.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Consul Blunt reporting upon affairs in the district of Volo and on the Greco-Turkish frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 507.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, September* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a Report from Mr. Charles Borrell, who acts as Mr. Vice-Consul Suter's agent and correspondent at Volo, furnishing some information on brigandage and other matters of interest in that district.

Mr. Borrell states that no murders have been perpetrated in that district, which was one of the principal centres of the late insurrection, from the 6th May to the 18th August last, the date of his Report.

Said Pasha, the Governor of Thessaly, having assured me, in answer to my inquiries, that the information furnished by Mr. Borrell relative to the villagers of Mount Pelion, having been forced to contribute double the amount of their usual taxes, and to sign documents in favour of Turkish rule, was groundless, I availed myself of Mr. Suter's journey to Volo on his way home to request him to make, jointly with Mr. Borrell, some further inquiries into those matters; and I now beg leave to inclose copy of his Report corroborating Said Pasha's assurances to me on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 507.

Mr. Borrell to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Volo, August* 18, 1878.

IN reply to your despatch of the 15th instant, I have the honour to state that to my knowledge no murder has been committed from the 6th May last up to this day; but as for brigandage, I am sorry to say that several bands are spread about in the neighbourhood of Volo.

It is about two months ago that out of fourteen gendarmes in the service of the local authorities eleven had deserted and turned out brigands; the day after their

desertion, posted as they were in the vicinity of Pilaf-Tepé, they stripped the muleteers and cart-drivers who were going to or coming from Larissa, Velestino, and Pharsala. About the same time the farm of Tzanli, belonging to a respectable Greek merchant of Volo, was entirely pillaged by deserters from the "Hodoodiyeh" (frontier guard), Sarakatchans, and Greek Albanians.

Several persons were also arrested by these marauders, and were released after giving up all the money they had with them.

These ruffians must have left this locality, as we have not heard of any recent depredations in these parts; still, travellers are cautious, as they may again make their appearance unexpectedly.

Several bands of brigands are actually infesting the promontory called "Thessalo Magnesia," beginning from Trikeri up to the village of Drakia on Mount Pelion.

These are all villagers of the district of Volo who had taken part in the last insurrection.

On the 11th instant several of these ruffians landed on the Island of Trikeri, in the Gulf of Volo, ill-treated the monk, and forced him to give up all the money he had, which amounted to upwards of 300 Turkish pounds. The Greek despatch-boat "Aphroessa," which was cruizing at the time in the waters of Eubœa, succeeded in capturing five of this band.

On Saturday last, the 17th instant, a well-off person named Zerbos, a native of Drakia, was seized near that village, and a heavy sum of money is now claimed for his release.

The Turkish Government had given orders to the local authorites to request the inhabitants of this district to pay this year double the usual taxes. The villagers refused to do so, on the ground that three consecutive years their crops had failed, and that they were suffering from great misery. They begged if it was possible to pay these taxes by instalments, but this favour was not granted to them. Our Kaïmakam, therefore, at the head of 300 regular soldiers, left for the villages of Mount Pelion to enforce the payment of these taxes.

I hear that many of the villages have paid them, and the others will have to do the same, but in order to satisfy these claims, the poor villagers were obliged to sell in advance part of their forthcoming crops of olive oil at an excessively low price.

The villagers of this district report that the Kaïmakam invites the notables of all the villages, and forces them to sign a document by which they certify that they are satisfied to remain under the Ottoman rule.

I am inclined to believe that it is owing to this assertion that various properties belonging to notables have been destroyed by fire in some villages.

All the inhabitants of this district are anxiously awaiting their annexation to Greece, so that if these notables have really signed such a document, surely it was not with their own will.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. W. BORRELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 507.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Volo, September 2*, 1878.

IN obedience to the instruction conveyed in your despatch of the 28th ultimo, on reaching this place I have occupied myself in making inquiries, in conjunction with Mr. Borrell, relative to the accuracy of the information in his Report to you of the 18th instant, and I have the honour to state that the taxes which he therein refers to as having been recently levied were those overdue of arrears of the financial year ended in March last, and, as had been erroneously represented to Mr. Borrell, were not those of the current year, of which the local authorities had been ordered to enforce in advance the exaction.

Owing to the failure for several consecutive seasons of the staple crop of olives, and the disturbed and the distressed state of the district caused by the late insurrection, all taxes had greatly fallen into arrear. By the use of some pressure, which all admit the Kaïmakam of Volo, Feizi Bey, has only exercised in extreme cases, and with great discretion and moderation, most of the arrears of imposts due for the year 1877 have been realized; and, it is said, that in some few of the villages even small portions of the sums have been obtained for 1878. This has been effected at serious sacrifices, however, as the

owners of produce were obliged to pledge, or sell in advance, at 3 and 4½ piastres per oke what would now be worth 6 piastres, and will increase in value as the time of coming to market approaches.

The Kaïmakam of Volo declares the assertion alluded to in the last paragraph of the extract from Mr. Borrell's Report, relative to his getting up petitions in favour of the Turkish rule, to be utterly untrue, and from what I am able to learn I believe it must be a great exaggeration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. SUTER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 507.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, September 11*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following incidents on the Greco-Turkish border:—

Hassan Pasha, the Commandant at Domoko, reports, under date the 6th instant, that six Turkish military deserters took refuge in Greece about a fortnight ago, and were sent by the Hellenic Commandant at Castania, Captain Dimitraki Galli, to the town of Phaurna, to be disposed of by the civil authorities there. The Commander-in-chief, Ali Saïb Pasha, in view of the instructions which, as I reported to your Excellency in my despatch of the 31st ultimo, he has received from the Porte, does not intend to claim the extradition of these deserters from the Hellenic authorities.

Hassan Pasha also states in his Report above-mentioned that he had heard from a reliable quarter that the Hellenic authorities at Lamia (Zeitoun) have dispatched agents to the Greek brigand bands on the border, to warn them that should they not return peaceably to their homes within the term of twenty days they would be outlawed, and that their families would also be expelled from their native villages. The authorities at Larissa, however, do not seem to give credit to this report.

The conflict which, as I reported in my despatch to your Excellency of the 29th ultimo, took place between the Turkish troops and the Greek brigands near Kaitza, in the vicinity of the border, has given rise to a correspondence between the Governor of Thessaly, Saïd Pasha, and the Hellenic Consul at Larissa, M. Palamides, involving a serious charge against some of the Hellenic border troops. Saïd Pasha asserts, in reliance upon a Report from the Mudir, or Sub-Governor of Domoko, that these troops wilfully fired upon the Turkish troops who had pursued the brigands up to the border line; while M. Palamides, in repudiating the imputation, promises to call the attention of the authorities at Lamia to the alleged occurrence.

From inquiries which I have made, it appears that the Turkish Commandant at Domoko does not at all allude to any such incident in his official Reports to the Commander-in-chief here, and thus I am disposed to believe that in this instance Saïd Pasha has not grounded his complaint upon sufficiently reliable evidence.

Iskender Pasha, the Commandant at Armyro, reports, under date of the 31st ultimo, that Greek marauders occasionally cross the border, and plunder and steal cattle from the inhabitants. On or about the 16th August, thirteen cows, belonging to a Tartar colony located in the village of Corfali, were carried off and driven across the border into Greece; and again, on the 27th of the same month, a party of Greeks landed on the coast in the vicinity of Armyro, and carried off in their boats eighty sheep belonging to Jussuf Agha, a member of the Medjliss of that town. Upon information furnished to him by one of his shepherds, Jussuf Agha proceeded with all haste to the Greek town of Moujella (Amaliopolis), and there traced and recognized forty-seven of his sheep, which, with the assistance of the Hellenic authorities, he subsequently succeeded in recovering and removing to Armyro.

Just as I was on the point of concluding this despatch a telegram was communicated to me from the Commandant at Alassona to the Commander-in-chief here, reporting the successful result of an encounter which a detachment of his troops has had on the 7th instant with thirty-eight Sarakatchans (brigands), under the leadership of a certain "Capitan Alexi."

It appears that these brigands seized and carried off on the 4th instant four Christians from the village of Mulosh, in that district, for whose release they demanded heavy ransoms, under the usual threats of torturing and murduring them. On learning

the incident, the Commandant at Allessona promptly organized a pursuit, which, according to his Report, has resulted in the total discomfiture of the brigands. Five of them were killed by the troops and eleven wounded, including the Chief Alexi, and there seems a probability of the remainder being secured.

The troops suffered no loss, and had the satisfaction to rescue the four Christian hostages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 508.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 1158.) [B.B.]

Therapia, September 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert, of Adrianople, reporting upon the Russian system of administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 508.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, September 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, on paying my first official visit to the Russian Governor of Adrianople, I availed myself of the opportunity to allude to the deplorable state of the country. Both on that occasion and when General Lipinsky returned my visit I found his Excellency most ready to discuss the subject with me.

I should here explain that the Consuls at this place, unlike those at Philippopolis, during their non-official intercourse with the Russian authorities, had always abstained from touching on such matters; nor, since assuming charge of Her Majesty's Consulate, did I until now consider myself at liberty to depart from that rule.

General Lipinsky, whilst admitting that disorders exist to a certain extent, contended that, in the first place, misdeeds were committed by Mussulmans against Christians as well as by Christians against Mussulmans; and that, whilst cases of the latter class alone were reported to me, they were either represented in a greatly exaggerated form or were simple inventions. On my asking for instances of the former category, his Excellency mentioned some recent isolated cases of cattle-lifting with assassination which had occurred in the neighbourhood of the insurgent territory and of the Ottoman lines before Gallipoli.

General Lipinsky having then asked me, in my turn, for instances where Mussulmans were the victims, I mentioned the attacks made on the villages to the north-east of Adrianople, as reported in my despatch to your Excellency of the 27th ultimo; and I cited more particularly, as being the most easy to verify, the affair at Sary-Danishmend, the victims of which were all here. I also gave the instance mentioned in my despatch of the 15th ultimo of the steward of Rushid Aga, who died here from the injuries inflicted on him by a Bulgarian. I selected this case, because it was by a Bulgarian that the murderer (who remains free at the scene of the crime) was denounced.

It may be useful to record in detail all that passed on these subjects, as exemplifying the different ways through which justice miscarries under the existing régime.

General Lipinsky observed, in the first place, that both the above-mentioned localities were within the district of the Commandant and Civil Governor of Mustafa-Pasha, the southern limits of which district, as exhibited to me on the map, correspond with those of the Bulgaria of the Treaty of San Stefano. He added that he was, nevertheless, empowered in urgent cases to take cognizance of matters within that district, and that he had done so in the instance of the village I had named. He went on to assure me that, as regarded the affair in question, I had been deceived, for that

he had in his possession a paper signed by the Turkish headman and principal inhabitants of the village stating that no outrages had taken place there, the disorders which had occurred being confined to some pillaging and the burning of two houses. He further, as showing the unreasonableness of Turkish complaints, commented on the fact that the men who had come here about this matter, and whom he desired to send back to the village under an escort of soldiers, could not be induced to go.

I replied that his Excellency evidently referred to the case of a village with a somewhat similar name, Hadji-Danishmend, where, as I knew, nothing worse had happened than what he had described. I assured him that the men of that place had returned home long since.

General Lipinsky having thereupon referred to the register, found that my supposition was correct. He could find no record concerning Sary-Danishmend, and it was from me that he first learnt what had happened there, and that the people now here, who were so reluctant to return to their homes, were not the two or three men who came from Hadji-Danishmend, as he had been led to believe, but almost the whole population of Sary-Danishmend. I explained, at the same time, that the reluctance of these people to venture home again arose from several reasons, namely, the desire to obtain redress for the outrages to which they had been subjected, so as to be insured from a repetition of them, and the uncertainty whether the squad which was to accompany them would remain at the village for their protection. I further stated that several of the victims were unable to undertake the journey, owing to the injuries from which they were still suffering, and that the want of means of subsistence through the carrying off of almost all their cattle, combined with the above reasons to make the villagers not unnaturally desirous of settling, if possible, in some other part of the Empire.

I ascertained that, as regarded the case of Rushid Aga's steward likewise, the Governor had received no information, nor could any record of it be discovered. He promised to make inquiries. I have not yet learnt the result.

General Lipinsky insisted that no petitions could have been given in regarding either of the above matters, although I mentioned the dates on which the petitions were delivered, arguing that the interests of the complainants were a sufficient guarantee of the truth of their allegations on that head. He replied that he was personally accessible every day to all persons with complaints, and finally suggested that the complainants in question should present themselves next day at noon with a petition, which he said he would himself receive from them. As the paper could not be prepared sooner the people from Sary-Danishmend presented themselves the day following, at the hour fixed, with their second petition, and a French translation of it, with which I had furnished them. I instructed M. Beuli, the Dragoman of the Consulate, to follow the men at a certain distance, and, in the event of their being refused admittance, to see the Governor himself, and inform his Excellency accordingly. The men were, in effect, turned away, and M. Beuli, taking the papers from them, asked to be admitted to the Governor's presence. His Excellency's Bulgarian Secretary-Dragoman, who received M. Beuli, declared that General Lipinsky could not receive anybody. On being informed of the affair which he had come to speak about, the Bulgarian Dragoman summarily declared that the story related by the people of Sary-Danishmend was all a lie, and not worth listening to. M. Beuli then managed to see the Governor's Aide-de-Camp, who undertook to deliver the petition.

From the above particulars, it will be abundantly clear how the Bulgarian officials (in whose hands the Russian authorities to some extent necessarily are) abuse their position to keep from the knowledge of these last facts compromising to their fellow-countrymen.

What follows will, moreover, conclusively show that, even where such facts become known to the Russian authorities, justice halts none the less on the all-essential point of redress.

When the Governor returned my visit, some days later, he referred to the subject of Sary-Danishmend, and said that inquiries had been made on the spot by order of the Commandant at Mustafa-Pasha, who ascertained that outrages had really occurred there. I then inquired whether steps had been taken for the arrest of the guilty parties, several of whom had been identified by the victims. The tenor of his Excellency's rejoinder could only serve to confirm—if confirmation were necessary—the impression, or rather conviction, which has been forced on me, and which I have recorded in more than one preceding Report, namely, that the passive attitude of the Russian authorities towards offences committed by Bulgarians against the Mussulman population is not attributable to negligence or inefficiency, but adopted systematically and of set

purpose, in obedience, no doubt, to superior orders; for General Lipinsky parried my question by observing that the Russian Government was desirous to calm the hatreds which prevail between different sections of the people, and to avoid doing anything calculated to irritate them. He added that, towards the same end, the Russian Government had instructed its authorities in the Turkish provinces to take no cognizance of any offences by whomsoever committed previous to the 13th January last, and that a number of charges preferred by Bulgarians against Mussulmans had been dismissed in consequence.

Whilst the disregard of this amnesty, so to call it, in the case of Arif and Shaban Aghas, of Philippopolis, is self-evident, the fallacy of the general principle implied in the above policy needs no demonstration. The only irritation deprecated is obviously that which the Bulgarians would feel were they hindered from letting loose their evil passions, and working their will upon the defenceless Turks. Whilst ostensibly condoning special offences committed by Mussulmans in the past, the Russian Government allows the Christians to take the law into their own hands and to visit the Turkish community at large with present and indiscriminate bloodshed, rapine, and pillage. The result is now before the world; and I hope that I, who assuredly have at no time been backward in denouncing Turkish provincial misrule, may be believed when I state that the evil state of things now prevailing is of an incomparably more widespread, harsh, and barbarous type than that to which it is manifestly intended as a set-off. I speak, of course, of the normal Turkish régime, to which alone a comparison can fairly apply. If the horrors enacted in May 1876 be insisted upon, it should be remembered, in the first place, that they were the result of exasperation and panic engendered by reports of dastardly and unimaginable cruelties perpetrated by the Bulgarian insurgents upon inoffensive persons, and the reality of which peculiar class of cruelties, in the subsequent instance of the tragedy in the Balkans above Mudlis, in the Kyzaulik district, have been attested by several English doctors who examined the bodies of the victims. Again, the atrocities committed on the Mussulman inhabitants of the same district of Kyzaulik, who, so far from having offered any provocation, had stood by the Bulgarians and preserved them from molestation during the first troubles; and the deliberate and partially successful attempt to exterminate the adult male Turkish population of that district by wholesale and cold-blooded executions, must be held as, at least, a counterbalance to the massacres of Bulgarians in the Tatar-Bazardjik district, where there was admittedly provocation.

In the North Balkan districts, to my own knowledge, and, I have been told, in those south of the Balkans also, and again at the present time in the Rhodope, as lately reported by me, the excesses committed by Mussulmans have been limited to offending Christian villages. The Christians under Russo-Bulgarian rule, on the other hand, vent their hatred indiscriminately on the whole Mussulman population, with the avowed object of bringing about its expulsion from the country.

Leaving aside, however, as regards the Turks, exceptional events arising from exceptional causes, and taking the ordinary state of the country as a basis of comparison, I may say that where instances of robbery and assassination of individual Christians occurred under Turkish rule, whole Mussulman villages are now liable to that treatment; and whereas the Turkish authorities had at least the grace to profess a desire to afford redress, Russian rule in Turkey does not make even that concession to public opinion.

Instances of outrages by Turks on Christian females were in ordinary times of far less frequent occurrence than appears to be commonly believed at home. When a single case of the sort happened it would set a whole province in commotion. Since the Russian occupation, it is hardly too much to say that the Bulgarians in the rural districts outrage at their will Turkish women and girls by the score.

The material well-being of the Bulgarian peasant under Turkish rule has become an admitted fact, and the national as well as individual spirit of hospitality of the Turk is proverbial. Now that the Bulgarians have the upper hand, their chief aim and end (and in this, I regret to say, they are joined by no small part of the Greek rural population) is utterly to ruin the Turk and to eject him from his home in Europe. By depriving the Mussulman peasantry of their only means of independent subsistence, namely, their live stock, and by stripping them of all their money and personal property, it is evidently intended to force them to dispose of or to abandon their useless fields, and to reduce those Turks who may remain in the country to the condition of field-labourers, a state of life hitherto unknown to all but a small fraction of the population.

Again, as regards insults in matters connected with religion, I can aver, from the

experience of many years, that instances of the sort were of rare occurrence under the Turkish régime, at any rate in ordinary times. The ministers of religion were treated with invariable respect. Even such a trivial mark of contempt as the firing of a shot into an empty church would be taken up by the whole community of a province and made a State affair of. Under the present Christian rule, not one "mesdjid" (or mosque of the class answering to a Christian chapel) out of ten has escaped destruction, even in this town of Adrianople.

If the demeanour of the Turk towards the native Christian personally was on occasion haughty or otherwise objectionable (it was not habitually so), it never took the unmanly and derisive forms which the Bulgarians have adopted towards the lately-dominant race, as, for instance, at Kirk-Kilissa, where they have taken to compelling the Mussulmans to carry them about the streets on their backs.

Lastly, as regards the public service, by universal consent Turkish venality and corruption at its worst is purity itself compared to its local Russian counterpart.

In short, as I have had the honour to submit above, the fruits of the Russian régime instituted in European Turkey have proved in every point of view of a signally baser quality than those of the Turkish misrule which served Russia as a motive or pretext for the late war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 509.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 1159.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of two telegrams which I have received, one from the inhabitants of Kirk-Kilissa, protesting against the cruel treatment experienced by them at the hands of the Bulgarians, the other from the representatives of the Mussulman and Christian population of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, protesting against the occupation of their country by the Austrians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 509.

Telegram from the Inhabitants of Kirk-Kilissa to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Traduction.)

PAR une supplique précédente nous avons porté à la connaissance de votre Excellence les tourments de tout genre que la population Musulmane a subis depuis l'invasion des Russes dans notre district de Kirk Kilissé, et nous avions sollicité aide et protection.

Ces derniers jours, à la suite d'un ordre qui serait arrivé de la part du Gouvernement Civil d'Islimia, un corps de milice Bulgare fut formé, au nombre de 500 hommes, à qui vinrent se joindre d'autres adhérents au nombre de 1,500.

Cette troupe depuis huit jours se répandit dans le district, et se mit à dépouiller tous les Musulmans qu'elle rencontre dans les rues, ainsi qu'à les frapper, les blesser, et à leur infliger toute espèce d'ignominie. Là-dessus, les Musulmans se retirèrent dans leurs maisons afin de se soustraire à ces mauvais traitements, mais les miliciens envahirent les maisons et continuèrent leurs actes sauvages. Les Musulmans s'en plaignirent à l'autorité civile du district, mais elle n'en fit pas grand cas, comme étant composée elle-même de Bulgares. Les soussignés ne sauraient par conséquent que solliciter de nouveau la protection de votre Excellence. En outre, les soussignés ont l'honneur de rapporter que les émigrés Musulmans qui sont rentrés dans leurs foyers non-seulement furent dépouillés à leur arrivée par les zaptiés Bulgares sous prétexte de perquisition pour constater qu'ils n'ont pas d'armes, mais en outre l'autorité locale confisqua et afferma à d'autres les maisons, les champs, et les vignes des émigrés, en les réduisant ainsi à mourir de faim. Ceci étant contraire à toute loi humaine et divine, ainsi qu'aux stipulations soit de San Stéfano soit de Berlin, les soussignés espèrent que

des mesures efficaces soient prises pour faire restituer aux émigrés leurs propriétés et les sauver ainsi de la ruine et de l'extrême misère.

(Suivent les sceaux des Pétitionnaires.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 509.

Telegram from the Populations of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Traduction.)

LES provinces de Bosnie et d'Herzégovine, notre chère patrie, dont le sol et les pierres sont pétris depuis 500 ans du sang de nos ancêtres, sont depuis trois ans le théâtre de méfaits de toutes sortes perpétrés par un tas de va-nu-pieds, qui, dans le but de les faire passer en d'autres mains, ont brûlé devant nos yeux nos biens et nos maisons et nous ont fait perdre notre tranquillité. L'Autriche, cause de tout cela, sous prétexte d'apporter une amélioration a franchi nos frontières avec des milliers de soldats et de canons, comme si elle déclarait la guerre à une Grande Puissance. Les contrées qu'elle a envahies sont ruinées, nos enfants tués, et ceux qui sont épargnés des enfants nouveaux-nés meurent de faim dans les montagnes, leurs mères n'ayant plus de lait pour les nourrir. Nous avons recouru à la compassion des Grandes Puissances Européennes désireuses de faire justice aux cris et aux lamentations de ces pauvres créatures, mais jusqu'à présent rien n'a encore été fait en leur faveur. Nous nous trouvons abandonnés de tous les côtés. Les accusés sont pendus haut et court sans qu'un tribunal examine leur degré de culpabilité. Tout ceci a complètement détruit notre confiance. Les tyrannies et les mauvais traitements dont nous sommes victimes de la part de l'Autriche n'ont même pas, d'après notre histoire, été infligés aux peuplades sauvages. Sans laisser le temps de nous passer tous au fil de l'epée, et abandonnant notre très chère patrie, nous nous trouvons dans la nécessité absolue d'émigrer. Et afin d'assurer et de garantir notre libre émigration vers la localité qui nous sera désignée, nous venons implorer de la justice et la miséricorde de votre Excellence de faire arrêter le mouvement des troupes. Nous la supplions aussi avec des larmes de sang de communiquer promptement notre prière à l'illustre pays qu'elle représente.

Le représentant de la population Chrétienne des deux Provinces,
(Signé) YORAN.

Le représentant de toute la population Musulmane des deux Provinces,
(Signé) MEHMED.

Le 25 Août, 1878 (v.s.)

No. 510.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September 26.*)

(No. 1160.) [B.B.*]

Therapia, September 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls in Turkey, reporting upon affairs of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 510.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, September 7, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch, dated the 31st ultimo, I have now the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the Christians who have been arrested and brought to Janina by Ibrahim Pasha, on suspicion of their having been accomplices of brigands,

* Excepting Inclosure 1.

have petitioned the various Consuls at Janina to intercede with the authorities for their release.

The petitioners describe the great joy they felt on the arrival at their respective villages of Ibrahim Pasha with his troops, by whom they hoped to be relieved from the evils to which they had been subjected by the brigands, when, on the contrary, the Pasha, not finding the brigands "before their villages," he caused them to be bound with ropes and conveyed them to Janina, where they were lodged in prison.

Perhaps it would not be out of place here to mention a daring act of brigandage that was committed on the 25th ultimo at Dragrari, a village of Zagori. The villagers were in the act of attending divine service, when a band of brigands (Christians) entered the church, killed a woman who barred the entrance, and dragged outside the church the wealthiest peasant, Philip Economos, where they mortally wounded him with knives.

The above two cases have been communicated to me by M. Kypriotis.

Within the last fortnight three persons died of small-pox at Prevesa; they were the only cases, however.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 510.

Vice-Consul Wiltshire to Consul Calvert.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Délégatch, September 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my despatch of the 23rd ultimo. I regret to state that since that date several brigands, headed by an Hellenic subject named Nicoli Palamari, have made their appearance in this neighbourhood, and are now the terror of the country.

This Nicoli Palamari, or "Petrass" as he is often called, is mentioned in my Report of the 20th March last to Mr. Consul Blunt. He is also reported in my despatch of the 27th June to Mr. Consul-General Fawcett, as having robbed a young Turk on the road to Maeri, and having fired three shots at him with a Winchester rifle, one of the shots taking effect and seriously wounding the Turk. For this attempt to murder Palamari was arrested, sent to Adrianople, and thrown into prison. I am assured that the Greek Vice-Consul of this place, M. Cantyanopoulo, being a short time ago at Adrianople, interceded in Palamari's favour, and, under the pretext that Palamari was ill, managed to get him out of prison. This fellow having regained his liberty made his appearance here about twelve days ago in company with three or four other brigands, and tried to waylay some Greeks and a Turk who were on their way to Maeri, but who luckily all managed to make their escape. Since then an old Turk from the village of Shainar has disappeared, and it is presumed he has been murdered; and a well-to-do Greek of this place has fallen into the hands of this Palamari, who has already received 340 liras as ransom, but who demands 160 liras more. This Greek was allowed to return home last night, his younger brother having surrendered himself to the brigands as guarantee for the payment of the 160 liras.

If rumours are true (and I am sorry to have to mention them), the Greek Vice-Consul of this place, it is said, connives at the doings of this Palamari, whom he has always protected; and it is believed that he gets his share of the plunder, for Palamari was seen a few nights ago in the Vice-Consul's house counting money. I was present when the policemen were ordered out to catch this Palamari on his first attempt to waylay the Greeks and the Turk, and I saw the Vice-Consul's servant approach the chief of the police and whisper some words to him. Several persons who were present immediately remarked: "Those are orders from the Vice-Consul not to touch Palamari." The fact is, the policemen returned without laying hands upon him, nor has any attempt been made to arrest him since.

Several petitions have been made against the Hellenic Vice-Consul by his own subjects, demanding that he should be sent away from this place; but though these petitions have been addressed to his superior authorities, they as yet have met with no success.

The extraordinary conduct of the Greek Vice-Consul towards an Hellenic subject in a coffee-house on the night of the 4th instant has called the attention of the Russian Governor, Count Stenbock, to his doings, and I am assured that he has sent

in a Report against him which, it is hoped, will have the desired effect of ridding this town of his baneful influence.

The following is a brief statement of what took place:—The Hellenic subject, M. Paudili Cokino, a young merchant from Smyrna, was at the coffee-house with a couple of friends, when he was accosted by the Vice-Consul's servant and another man, and invited to drink raki with them. He having refused to do so, they charged him with having made use of insulting language in speaking of the Vice-Consul, and the first pointing a revolver at him and the other drawing out a large knife threatened to kill him. The Vice-Consul, whose house is close by, came in, and instead of seeking to protect M. Cokino by his presence abused him, and, by doing so, excited so much the more his two assailants. M. Cokino has assured me he owes his life to his cool demeanour and to the presence of the two friends who were with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEONARD WM. WILLSHIRE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 510.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sulina, September 10, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE nothing of importance to report to your Excellency since I last had the honour of addressing you on the 23rd ultimo. The Russians have dismounted all the guns from their batteries, but have not yet embarked them. They still retain the same number of troops here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) OCTAVUS STOKES.

Inclosure 4 in No. 510.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 13 *Septembre*, 1878.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que hier son Excellence le Gouverneur a reçu par exprès une lettre du Caïmacam de Sultan-Yéré, l'informant que le 6 de ce mois, dans le village de Kirchali (Rhodope) les nommés Déli Omer, Mufëissullah, Déli Ibraim, Déli Memet et Cakischo qui sont à la tête de bandes armées qui varient de cent à cent cinquante hommes, se sont présentés au Medjliss du dit village et ont exigé que dès ce jour-là le nom de Sa Majesté le Sultan ne soit plus prononcé dans la prière à la Mosquée et qu'on ait à y substituer le nom de Déli Omer qu'ils venaient de proclamer leur Chef sous le titre de Chah Omer.

Le Medjliss a fait semblant d'adhérer à cette demande, mais après le départ de ces cinq individus, ayant interpellé les Chefs du village sur ce qu'il y avait à faire, il a été unanimement décidé qu'il fallait rejeter ces prétentions et que les membres du Medjliss devaient dresser un Mazbata faisant appel au Gouverneur de Gallipoli pour avoir quelques soldats et se mettre en position d'arrêter Déli Omer et ses acolytes, étant pour cela assurés du concours d'Ismail Agha qui se trouve à la tête de 1,500 hommes, avec lesquels depuis plus de quatre mois il tient en échec les Bulgares, qui cherchent à faire invasion dans le Caza de Sultan-Yéré.

Le Gouverneur a télégraphié à la Sublime Porte pour avoir des instructions; mais jusqu'à ce moment il n'a eu aucune réponse.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

Inclosure 5 in No. 510.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, September 14, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the brother-in-law of Field-Marshal Mehemet Ali Pasha, together with a servant, both disguised as common soldiers, have arrived here, and have given the particulars of his death.

He was in the Palace (or "Konak") at Yacova, together with Abdallah Pasha, Chakir Bey, and Bairam Aga, Albanian Chiefs, and had gained them over to listen to the Sultan's orders, when the Ghegha Albanians surrounded the Palace to the number of 10,000, and besieged it. During two days these Chiefs, together with 150 soldiers who had accompanied Mehemet Ali Pasha, defended themselves bravely against the insurgents till the part of the Palace reserved as Harem was set on fire, when they took refuge in the "Salamlik."

From the minaret of a mosque which overlooked the courtyard of the Palace the Albanians kept firing on them. At last a door badly fastened was broken open, and then the Albanians seized Abdallah Pasha, took him up to the top of the minaret and threw him down, at the same time riddling his body with balls. Chakir Bey and Bairam Aga were then shot, and lastly Mehemet Ali Pasha.

There were many killed on both sides during the two days, but the Albanians avoided firing on the soldiers, their object being to kill "the officers" and "the three Chiefs," whom they designated as "traitors" to their cause. The crime attributed to Mehemet Ali Pasha was his having at the Congress advocated the cession of a part of Albania to Montenegro, and the Austrian occupation of the territory between Servia and Roumelia, which would cut off their communication with that part of the country mostly inhabited by Mahommedans.

Of the six regiments of Regulars who arrived here last week two (1,600) have been sent up the line of railway and four (3,200) have embarked in a transport and a corvette for Volo.

We have a Turkish iron-clad and a corvette arrived to-day to take the rest of the men to Volo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

P.S.—The Austrian man-of-war has returned from Volo.

E. B. B. B.

No. 511.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 671. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Vienna, September 19, 1878.

COUNT ANDRASSY asked to see me this morning to speak of a proposal from the Russian Government, which he understood to have been equally made to your Lordship, for a collective step at Constantinople calling upon the Porte at once to proceed to the evacuation of Podgoritza. Being very desirous that our two Governments should, as far as possible, follow the same course, he wished to know the view which your Lordship took of the proposal before he returns an answer to it. He is himself strongly of opinion that it should be acceded to, for whatever difficulties may be alleged to stand in the way of the transfer to Montenegro of warlike populations resolved to resist their annexation to the Principality, the Turkish Government cannot be supposed not to have sufficient authority to direct the evacuation of a fortress garrisoned by their regular army.

His Excellency's arguments upon this occasion were naturally chiefly the same he had used when advocating compliance with the proposal of the Cabinet of Berlin, from which, however, the present proposal differed in the essential point of being confined to one particular matter, respecting which Count Andrassy considers the Porte undoubtedly able to execute the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, and blamable for not having already done so.

His distrust of the intentions of Russia is daily increasing, and he daily attaches more importance to the avoidance of anything that may afford colour to a pretence that the non-observance of the Treaty on the one side is a reason for not giving it full effect on the other.

I promised at once to telegraph to your Lordship as he desired, but I asked whether, if this step were to be taken at Constantinople, it would not be right at the same time to call upon the Montenegrins to give up Dulcigno, which, according to the Treaty, they will have to evacuate.

He said that this ought certainly to be done if the Porte was summoned to

evacuate all the territory to be transferred to Montenegro; but he did not otherwise think that it would be desirable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 512.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 672.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 19, 1878.

FROM Sir Henry Layard's telegram transmitted to me by your Lordship the day before yesterday, the Porte appears to have understood Carathéodory Pasha and myself to be of opinion that it would be better not to accept the Convention for Bosnia as agreed to by Count Andrassy, but to take its stand upon the agreement signed at Berlin, and to make a Convention for the district of Novi-Bazar alone. This was not, however, my opinion, and I had not understood it to be that of the Pasha either.

The Porte has left its Plenipotentiary three whole weeks without an intimation whether he was to accept or reject the proposed Convention, at the imminent risk of events occurring which may induce the Austrian Government to withdraw some of the conditions they are still willing to grant; and, knowing that there was no prospect of getting Count Andrassy's consent to modifications favourable to the wishes of the Porte, it appeared to us both that, rather than prolong a position full of danger, it might be desirable to fall back upon a Convention applying solely to the district of Novi-Bazar, about which there would not be so much difficulty. I have questioned Carathéodory Pasha this morning, when he stated that he had recommended this limited Convention as an alternative, but not as being preferable to one for the whole of Bosnia.

From Count Andrassy's language, when I have alluded to such an alternative being possible, I believe that he would not be indisposed to agree to it; but (as I have told Carathéodory Pasha) it would be in vain to propose to him a Convention in which mention is made of the Memorandum signed at Berlin. He says he consented to that declaration to enable the Turkish Plenipotentiaries to sign the Treaty, and it was stated to be with the view of the immediate conclusion of an understanding between the two Governments respecting the occupation; but that understanding not having been come to, through the inadmissible demands of the Porte, he will not now allow the paper to be quoted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 513.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 673.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 19, 1878.

I HAVE communicated to Count Andrassy your Lordship's telegram of the 17th conveying the considerations which had decided Her Majesty's Government not to accede to the proposal of the Berlin Cabinet for an identic representation to be made by the Powers calling upon the Porte fully to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency made no observation upon it, except to repeat his regret at the decision which Her Majesty's Government had arrived at, but he expressed very warm acknowledgments for the efforts that Sir H. Layard had made, under your Lordship's instructions, to persuade the Porte to come to an understanding with the Imperial Government about the Convention respecting the occupation of Bosnia.

I had, at the same time, informed Count Andrassy of the statement of the Grand Vizier, reported in Sir H. Layard's telegram to your Lordship of the 16th, denying that arms or ammunition for the insurgents had passed through Mitrovitza, and saying that he was ready to allow the Austrian Consul at Prisrend every opportunity of verifying the fact.

His Excellency maintained that munitions of war had been passed to the insurgents, who are unquestionably in possession of very ample supplies of them, and said

that though it was true that the Porte had offered to allow the Consul at Prisrend to go to Mitrovitza, it had almost immediately afterwards practically revoked the permission by intimating that it could not answer for its safety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 514.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 676.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatches, which have been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 514.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Camp, near Doboj, September* 14, 1878.

IT now seems probable that General Philippovich will prosecute his administrative work at Serajevo, and will leave to his Lieutenants, the Commanders of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Corps d'Armée the management of a campaign against the insurgents who aimed at cutting the Brod-Serajevo line of communication. Of the Corps Commandants, Field-Marshal Remberg, at Brod, is Vice-Commander-in-chief; through him the orders arriving from Vienna are promulgated.

It was intended that the campaign should begin on the 15th instant. Field-Marshal Bienerth would cross the Save in two places, and march on Dol Tuzla and Zwornik with two complete divisions. Field-Marshal Szapary would maintain the touch, but not push back the insurgents till Bienerth reported progress.

I arrived in this camp the night of the 13th September, and from the Austrian camp fires saw that the situation had not changed since my last visit. The Austrians hold the heights on the right bank of the Bosna in a semicircular form, making an ample *tête-de-pont*. The enemy may or may not be in the immediate vicinity. If patrols were pushed into the bush they would sustain loss, and bring about a partial engagement, the result of which rather encourages the Bosnians; therefore, this army corps will hardly move before Bienerth has made some impression on his adversaries. It consists of all the 4th Division and one strong brigade of the 20th Division, but as the whole of the 1st Division has been called to Serajevo the regulated order of battle is far from formed.

On the road from Brod I found at Cortorosko, two hours distant, a brigade of General Remborg's force, and I understand another brigade will occupy Derwent in reserve.

These troops have been "collecting arms." The Major-General Mengazzi, commanding the Cotorosko brigade, described to me the process:

"At 6 P.M. I arrived near a town, and immediately placed my artillery in position, informing the Kaïmakam of the place that I must be in possession of all the arms by 8 P.M. At 8 I had received nothing, so I sent to the Kaïmakam and told him that my patience should extend a half-hour, but that before dark fire would be opened if the arms were not given up. From half-past 8 till half-past 10 P.M. cart-loads of arms and ammunition poured into my camp."

I was invited by the Major-General to inspect some few waggon-loads, and saw every kind of fire-arms and numbers of unopened cases of Snider ammunition. The rifles were all loaded. This was all from one small town!

The serviceable weapons were exclusively Snider, Peabody, and Winchester repeaters, with the native cut-and-thrust sword. Of the 1,000 pistols, one would rather not have fired off a single one, as they seemed to be, and doubtless were, mere weapons *de luxe*.

I take this opportunity of mentioning an act of justice rendered by the Austrians recently, which proves the leaders to be most humane under trying circumstances.

When last here a man* was found on the hills with an officer's cap in his hand, in which was a human tongue or human tongues. The native protested that he found the cap in this condition, and was set at liberty, as all evidence was wanting.

Nothing can equal the kindness of Field-Marshal Szapary and his Staff. I am a member of the mess, where there is positively nothing to eat but the soldier's ration; and the Corps Commandant would place me in possession of any information he chanced to possess, but his orders arrive from Vienna, through Field-Marshal Romberg, and positively nothing is known of the intention of the Vienna War Council.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major*, *17th Lancers*,
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 514.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Camp, near Doboj, September 15, 1878.

Sir,

NEWS has reached here that the 4th Corps, under Field-Marshal Bienerth, crossed the Save at two places, Samac and Brcca, but the orders to this, the 3rd Corps, are merely to occupy the enemy's attention. With this object Field-Marshal Szapary pushed forward a battalion from the centre of his *tête-de-pont* position on the heights, and soon "felt" the enemy within 1,000 yards of his intrenched outposts. Four field-guns were able to take part in the skirmish, which lasted from 5 A.M. till 11.

During the latter part, with an Austrian officer, I reconnoitred as far as the extreme right, where a regiment of infantry held an intrenched camp taken from the Bosniacs on the 5th instant, on the left bank of the Spreca. This camp is in a salient and commanding position, and, notwithstanding the surrounding bush, it could clearly be seen that a few hundred insurgents alone remain in front of the Austrians; the bulk have retired on Gracanica, or possibly further.

I regret to report that the morning's skirmish cost between thirty and forty wounded, including two officers, and it certainly was not worth the cost. I could not assert that there were 200 insurgents engaged, but the bush was thick. I could see a few Redifs, and less natives; the latter fight in their shirt-sleeves. I also noted six mounted men. There may have been greater numbers before my arrival, but the reinforcement to the fire line seemed to consist of ten to twelve men at a time.

The Austrian troops engaged were under fire for the first time, and their courage was unbounded; still, in my opinion, their blood was needlessly shed. I should doubt very much whether the enemy suffered anything like the loss. There is only one method of attack which is sure to pay, and that is, closing with the skulker in a bush. The Austrians do this with fixed bayonets, but as the enemy never waits to cross blades it would be better to break through this droll regulation.

It may be said that these well-drilled troops, like the Rifle Brigade in Ashantee, have been too well drilled for the work in hand. Seeking cover, as a rule, is a necessity; but an exception exists to the rule when disciplined troops attack barbarians, who are used to the bush and do not fear death.

I fancy that a great proportion of the insurgents fire without aim; at all events they aim very badly. It is rare that an Austrian falls in the fire line; the casualties are further back.

The affair of the 5th September was a great feat of arms, favoured by fortune. A brigade marched up the Bosna to dislodge the insurgents from the vicinity of the Maglai road, and at the same time a regiment (the 8th) marched with artillery by the shortest line to the same wooded heights. The 8th charged five times with the bayonet, and found its way barred for at least three miles by "abbatis."† Just at dark the gallant regiment came on earthworks, and at once assaulted. At this moment two and a half companies of the brigade from the Bosna slipped into the north-west corner of the intrenched position, and the insurgents fell back. It was now dark, and the 8th regiment, in ignorance of the fact that the advanced guard of the brigade was in the intrenched position, fell back two miles.

The insurgents retreated on Gracanica, but had the good sense to reinforce their rearguard in front of Szapary's centre.

* Mahommedan.

† In no instance did the insurgents stand the charge.

I quite believe that the 8,000 or 10,000 brigands now on the run will not make a serious stand before arriving in the Pashalik of Novi-Bazar. The Austrians must have been badly informed, and, whilst three corps have been formed, the 10,000 cut-throats and fanatics have made their plan for escape.

It may turn out that I underrate the insurgent numbers on the Servian frontier, and there may be fighting in the Swornik district; but I do not underrate the strength of the bands who have threatened the Brod-Serajevo road, and caused Szapary so much loss and trouble.

The Austrian army would have shown to greater advantage had the mobilization been complete, and had a real army opposed them in the field. With the exception of one regiment, which need not be named, and which formed part of Szapary's weak brigade of the 20th Division, the troops seem to be animated with the very best spirit, and encounter hardship in a most exemplary way; but bush-fighting is not their strong point, and they have too great a belief in artillery fire.

This campaign will do the service much good, if it only eliminates the class of officers who obtained rank in the pre-educational period.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major*, *17th Lancers*,
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 3 in No. 514.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Camp, Doboj, September 16, 1878.

Sir,

THIS morning I accompanied the patrols sent forward from the outposts of the 3rd Corps to feel for the enemy; not an insurgent was to be found within eight miles of the position. Moreover, an officer with a small escort ascertained that the main body of insurgents had passed beyond Gracanica.

At this moment the whole of the 4th Division is in march, and will be followed by the head-quarters of the corps during the night. Communication will be established with the left of Field-Marshal Bienerth's 4th Corps between Gracanica and Dol Tuzla; but it is to be regretted that the main strength of Bienerth's force is not nearer to the Servian frontier *viâ* Begolina and Swornik. I still anticipate that no serious opposition will be offered to the overwhelming Austrian force, and that the Bosniacs will hurry to the Novi-Bazar district.

I have had an opportunity of conversing with Field-Marshal Szapary on his eventful campaign, and ascertain that the change of base was a master-stroke of strategy. To retreat on Samac, his natural line, would have been to expose the line of the Bosna Valley, choked with supplies, to an insurgent attack. Szapary, therefore, on his own responsibility, telegraphed to Vienna for a bridge at Doboz, and resolved to check the enemy on the last chain of hills hanging over the Bosna at Doboz. The Staff map is of no value as regards detail; therefore much had to be risked, and in the end the General had to hold a line or semicircle 10 kiloms. in extent with 1,000 men. I have examined this line, which is now garrisoned by 7,000 men. The position was critical, but the wounded and heavy baggage were passed over the Bosna on rafts made by the troops, and then the infantry force was able to hold its own till a bridge was established and reinforcements arrived. I am still unable to discover that the insurgents passed the number of 10,000, but they were well acquainted with the few paths penetrating the bush; and I am of opinion that too much credit cannot be given to the late Commander of the 20th Division, both for his bold plan and the skill with which it was executed. When reinforcements arrived, I do not quite understand why the insurgents were permitted to remain close to the Austrian lines. Only yesterday, during the encounter, I witnessed twenty-seven men were wounded in or within a distance of 500 yards of a central battery which is only a quarter of an hour's ride from the head-quarters' encampment. The fact is, that when the three corps were formed, Szapary lost power of initiative, and the Vienna idea was to surround the force which had so nearly caused a disaster; but, as every one must have expected, the natives were well informed of Bienerth's movements, and made themselves scarce at the proper moment. The insurgents in no way resemble a regular army, but are an unskilled band of desperadoes, possessing an instinct and fired with a fanaticism which perhaps is better than courage. If there are Christians amongst them, these are pressed into the service. Every night at sunset they have been heard to call on Allah for help, and

have observed duties belonging to the season of Ramazan. The Austrians assert that during this feast the Moslem is not permitted to relinquish his religious duties during the night, and this is the reason given for an absence of night attacks either on the Austrian lines or the Brod-Serajevo road. Another extraordinary fact is, that they have never cut the telegraph wires. All tends to prove that they are an uneducated crowd of savages, who can form no lasting source of danger to Austrian rule.

I find the Austrians are severe only in theory, and I am not afraid of having to record acts of cruelty. Meanwhile, the Moslems have been guilty of such acts of barbarity that they will hardly dare to disperse to their villages on the chance of escaping detection; the evidence of a Christian will never be wanting when they are taxed with crime. It follows, therefore, that those physically able to undertake a long journey will speed on their way to a Moslem stronghold, and the only question remaining is whether such a haven exists short of Novi-Bazar.

The country is a rich garden, with great resources, including wood and water. If judiciously colonized, there is no reason why it should not amply pay its way; therefore, I am inclined to take a bright view of affairs. The Government at home has issued stringent orders, which are obeyed to the letter; every article taken for or by the troops is paid for, and the drones of inhabitants are only called upon to work at the opening of communications; they never have been in the habit of working, and do everything with the worst possible grace; still I have witnessed no act of violence. It is yet too soon to open the question of civil government, at least in this district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 514.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Camp, Gracanica, September 18, 1878.

Sir,

THE portion of the 3rd Army Corps available, viz., the 4th Division and a strong brigade of the 20th Division, left Brod yesterday, and sweeping the wooded country on both banks of the Sprica River, concentrated on Gracanica.

The ascent of the western slopes of the hills covering Doboj was a work of great toil for wheeled carriage, as will be understood when I mention that sixteen horses were hardly able to make a munition waggon progress on the most severe inclines. Eight hours' rain had ruined the foothold on the tolerably firm roadway. The horses were newly conscribed and untrained for the severe work, and the drivers were cavalry reserve men, superintended, however, by artillery officers. Field-Marshal Lieutenant Szapary delayed the departure of head-quarters seven hours, and then was unable to see the last heavy carriage of the fighting column in motion. Every individual, from the Commander downward, had to bivouac, nor was an early start possible next day.

The various columns met with no enemy; in villages about there were fires, but whether the houses were fired by the Moslems or Christians was difficult to understand. Probably a little private vengeance was indulged in by both factions. This I can assert, that the damage was not done by Austrians. I have mentioned that this army is pre-eminently humane in war. I may now add that the strict orders of His Majesty the Emperor are most strictly obeyed, and further, that the inhabitants—both Turk and Christian—place a perfect confidence in the army, which proclaimed its intention of paying its way as a friend in place of requisitioning the necessaries of life.

One observes the cattle in the fields, and even Turks keep their shops open in villages, whilst whatever harm is done by the troops the Austrians make good by payment. Where a claim is made the Commanders even pay for articles when the country peasant fails to make good his charge against the troops—anything rather than give rise to discontent. Field-Marshal Lieutenant Szapary assures me that, as regards the Christians, the system answers, and I am able to bear record that the discipline of the corps to which I am attached is perfect; beyond eating unripe apples and plums the troops do no mischief to the inhabitants. Hay, as a matter of course, is used wherever found, but the owner has his remedy.

The country, as far as I have seen, is as rich as Kent, and will well repay painstaking.

This morning the Brigade Woldstatter pushed on two miles (English) in the direction of Tuzla, and were fired at by the flying rear-guard of the insurgents.

The country people assert that the whole of the insurgent Moslems, with their children and women, have reached Del Tuzla.

My next Report will inform your Excellency whether there is any fighting at this town, which is probably three days' march distant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 515.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 677.)
My Lord,

Vienna, September 24, 1878.

I AM in receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 484 directing me to communicate, for the confidential information of the Austrian Government, the substance of Mr. Freeman's despatch No. 60 of the 31st ultimo, reporting upon the condition of affairs in Bosnia and the execution of insurgent leaders.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that when this despatch passed through my hands, under flying seal for your Lordship, I caused an extract to be made of it, which I placed in Count Andrassy's hands. His Excellency thanked me for it, saying, however, that accounts which he had received from other quarters made him believe that Mr. Freeman must have exaggerated the severity said to have been exercised by General Philippovich; but I called his attention to the fact that the correspondence published in different Vienna newspapers agreed closely with what was stated by Her Majesty's Consul.

I may mention to your Lordship confidentially that although Count Andrassy is not disposed openly to admit an Imperial General to be acting with a severity contrary to the orders of the Emperor and the Government, it was not difficult for me to perceive that he is by no means satisfied with his proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 516.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 678.)
My Lord,

Vienna, September 24, 1878.

THE last accounts from Bosnia and the Herzegovina are very satisfactory and encouraging. The latter province is represented as not only almost entirely occupied by the Austrian troops, but also as being in a state of what may be called tranquillity.

General Jovanowich upon occupying Mostar had established a Council or Medgliss, including Mahometan members, and he appears to have endeavoured, not without some success, to have inspired confidence among the populations.

A report from Major Gonne, which will reach your Lordship by the present messenger, shows that Count Szapary is following a similar conciliating course in the Doboj district with a prospect of equally good results, while at Bosna-Serai, on the contrary, excessive severity and the treatment of all Mahometans as enemies or rebels has had the effect of creating a feeling of hatred against the Austrians, of swelling the numbers of the insurgents, and of driving them into a more determined resistance.

The proceedings of the Commanders in that district appear directly at variance with the orders and wishes of the Emperor and Count Andrassy, which have been better followed elsewhere.

About a fortnight ago the Austrians met with a severe check in an attack upon Bilina, a strong position lying within three miles of the Austrian frontier in the north-west corner of Bosnia, where they lost above 80 men killed and 400 wounded, by attacking with infantry a place that could readily be reduced by artillery, as was afterwards done at a trifling sacrifice.

Its fall is already leading to satisfactory results, and offers of submission are now coming in from various places in that district, while the work of disarming the people still continues.

The most marked success of last week has been the occupation of Dolni-Tuzla and Bielina, which have been effected at a trifling cost, though the strongest stand had been expected to be made there by the insurgents, who had at first successfully opposed Count Szapary's advance, and who had since been largely reinforced.

According to present appearances, the policy of delaying the advance of the Imperial troops till a sufficient force had been collected to render effectual resistance hopeless is likely to be successful, while the forced abandonment by the insurgents of their strongest positions, without even a serious attempt to hold them, is expected to have a moral effect upon the lukewarm among them, and to discourage many from further resistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 517.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 166. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September 23, 1878.*

AS reported in my previous despatches, the Roumanian Legislative Chamber will meet in extraordinary Session on the 27th instant, and Prince Charles is expected here to-morrow back from his country residence.

His Highness will address a message to the Chambers intimating the nature of the decisions of the Congress affecting Roumania, and the action his Government has taken in consequence during the prolongation.

The opposition journals continue to hold extremely violent language, insisting that the ordinary Chambers are not competent to take any further action in the matter, and urging the necessity of an appeal to the country.

As far as I can see neither the Prince nor his Ministers appear inclined to dissolve either Chambers at the present moment.

Russia shows no desire to accelerate the giving up of the Dobrudja, and she has even relaxed in her measures for taking possession of Bessarabia, evidently for the purpose of awaiting the result of a Parliamentary discussion which cannot alter one iota of what has been settled at Berlin, but may bring out still more vividly the strong animosity of the two political parties at Bucharest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 518.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 754.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of 4·15 P.M. yesterday, I have informed M. Waddington that Major Wilson is appointed British Commissioner for the demarcation of the Servian frontier, and that he will start at once for Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 519.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 25, 1878.*

IN consequence of Greek Circular despatch, M. de Giers telegraphed on the 19th instant to Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to "associate himself to the steps taken by his colleagues, and to continue his efforts to protect the interests of other nationalities."

First part of his message will be communicated to Greek Minister here.

No. 520.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878, 6 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 861., with respect to financial administration, intimate to Porte that any such engagement as proposed in the draft Treaty would be contrary to Treaty of Berlin, and cannot be assented to by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 521.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 858, as to ceded districts, I fear it is too late to make any change. It would require consent of Russians, who could certainly refuse.

There is great danger in delay in surrendering territory. If this question is unsettled when the Greek difficulty commences, so that both can be quoted in combination as a proof that Porte is not executing Treaty, Russians are very likely to occupy Macedonia.

No. 522.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878, 6·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 857, Russian Plenipotentiaries at Berlin absolutely refused to concur in any stipulation concerning general Government of Eastern Roumelia, apart from finance, during the intermediate period before organization of province. The matter, therefore, is not positively decided by Congress, but general tendency of Treaty is to place administration in hands of the Commission. In any case the financial administration should be insisted on.

No. 523.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878, 7 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 14, I cannot call attention of Russian Government to the incident mentioned until I have received exact report of Prince Dondoukoff's language. But whenever any person of authority in the Russian service intimates in your presence, or that of Lord Donoughmore, any intention to disregard Treaty of Berlin, you should say that Her Majesty's Government are fully resolved to insist on the exact execution of that Treaty, and you believe that resolution is shared by the other Signatory Powers.

No. 524.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1163.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 858 of the 23rd instant, stating that the Grand Vizier was anxious to know whether Her Majesty's Government thought it

possible that the districts of Grušinvo and Vranja, which are inhabited exclusively by Albanians, might be exchanged for other territory inhabited by Slavs; and I have to state to you in reply that I fear it is now too late to make any change in the decisions of the Congress.

The consent of the Russian Government would be necessary for any such exchange, and it is not at all likely that that consent would be given.

You will point out that there is great danger in delaying the surrender of the territories ceded by the Treaty to Servia and Montenegro.

Should this question be still unsettled when that of the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontiers comes on again for discussion, so that the two questions can be quoted in combination as a proof that the Porte is not executing the Treaty of Berlin, it is very likely that the Russians will make these a pretext to justify the occupation of Macedonia.

I communicated the substance of the above to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 525.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1165.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878.*

I UNDERSTAND from your Excellency's telegram No. 861 of the 24th instant, that the draft Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey proposed by Prince Labanoff contains, in Article IV, a stipulation that during the occupation by the Russian forces of any territory which will eventually be restored to the Porte under the Treaties of San Stefano and of Berlin, the administrative arrangements shall remain the same as from the commencement of the occupation, the Porte taking no part in them until the complete evacuation of such territories.

Any such engagement, in so far at least as regards financial administration, would be contrary to the Treaty of Berlin, which provides expressly in Article XIX for the administration of the finances of Eastern Roumelia by the European Commission in concert with the Porte, until the completion of the new organization of the province.

I have requested you, by telegraph, to intimate this to the Grand Vizier, and to state that Her Majesty's Government cannot assent to the Article in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 526.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1167.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 857 of the 23rd instant, requesting to be informed of the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the question of the administration of Eastern Roumelia, pending the new organization of that province. I addressed yesterday some observations to your Excellency on this subject. The Russian Plenipotentiaries at Berlin absolutely refused to concur in any stipulation concerning the general government of Eastern Roumelia, apart from the administration of the finances, during the intermediate period before the completion of the scheme for its organization.

There is, therefore, no positive decision of the Congress on the subject to which appeal can be made. The general tendency of the Treaty, however, is to place the administration of the province in the hands of the Commission constituted under Article XVIII.

In any case the execution of Article XIX should be insisted upon, by which the financial administration is assigned to that Commission, acting in concert with the Porte.

The substance of the above has been telegraphed to your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 527.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 626.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 744 of the 21st instant, I have to request you to inform M. Waddington that Major Wilson, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of the Servian frontier, started from London on Tuesday last, with the intention of proceeding direct to Belgrade with the least delay possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 528.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 30.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 24 of the 13th instant, and I have to express to you my approval of the instructions given by you to Lord Donoughmore in regard to his journey to Philippopolis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 529.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 31.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878.*

I APPROVE the language which you held to the Grand Vizier upon the subject of the appointment of a Turkish Member of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, and the necessity for drawing up some basis for discussion as regards the future constitution of that province, as reported in your despatch No. 20 of the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 530.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff.

(No. 34.) [B.B.]
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878.*

I HAVE received with surprise and regret the intelligence conveyed in your telegram No. 14 of the 23rd instant, as to the language held by Prince Dondoukoff to Lord Donoughmore. Until I receive an exact and detailed report of the words used by his Excellency I cannot call the attention of the Russian Government to what has passed. But I have telegraphed to you this day to state that if any person of authority in the Russian service uses expressions in your presence or that of Lord Donoughmore implying an intention to disregard the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, you should state that Her Majesty's Government are fully resolved to insist on the exact execution of that Treaty, and that that resolution, in your belief, is also shared by the other Signatory Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 531.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(No. 5.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 110 of the 30th ultimo, and I have to express to you my approval of the representations made by you to Khoshoof Pasha to obtain payment of the arrears due to disbanded soldiers at Trebizond.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 532.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 20.) *Poti, September 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report the landing at the mouth of the River Rhion of three 15-ton guns, intended for the large battery lately erected five miles north of Poti.

A short line of railway is in course of construction between the fort at the south side of the mouth of the Rhion and the town.

All the Turkish sandals lying in the river have been ordered to proceed to Tchikijeri and Batoum, to assist in the loading of war material into the transports now lying in the harbour.

Neyed Pasha and Hassan Beg have been staying in Kutais with Prince Mirsky, at the house of General Oglobshoi, for a week, arranging the details of the evacuation of Batoum, which it is said will be handed over to Russia on the 7th instant, but a later report gives the $\frac{13}{14}$th instant as the date of surrender. Four Russian corvettes are now lying in Poti Roads ready to enter the harbour at the appointed time. It is now thought the transfer will be effected without any resistance on the part of the Laz, many of them having already crossed the Cholok into Turkish territory.

Orders have been received by the Director of the Poti and Tiflis Railway to prepare waggons for the transport of 50,000 troops from Tiflis to Poti. Four battalions are now under canvas on the shore, but on the surrender of Batoum they will all be forwarded to Odessa and Sebastopol.

Fifty sick and wounded soldiers are sent by each of the regular passenger steamers trading between Poti and Odessa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 533.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 21.) *Poti, September 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Prince Mirsky, Aide-de-Camp to his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Michael, attended by his staff, took formal possession of Batoum on the $\frac{26\text{th August}}{7\text{th September}}$, the anniversary of the Emperor's marriage. The surrender was effected without any particular incident occurring; the Turkish flag was lowered and a salute of twenty guns fired, the Russian standard was then raised and twenty-one guns fired, the Cossacks and regular troops immediately entering the forts.

A Mollah who endeavoured to incite the people to resist by preaching and shouting from a minaret was immediately arrested.

Four Russian corvettes that had lain at anchor in Poti Roads for two weeks waiting the occasion then entered the harbour.

The Russians found the place literally empty, there being neither food for man nor beast left. A steamer was quickly despatched to Poti, and a number of small vessels immediately chartered to convey flour, salt, provisions, provender, &c., for the use of the troops.

Various projects are now on foot for uniting the Poti and Tiflis Railway with Batoum: the first and most important is that proposed from Michaeloff through Borjohm, the property of the Grand Duke Michael, following the course of the River Kyra to Akalcieck, and thence to Ozurgel, in Guriel, and on to Batoum; this route is most difficult, and the cost will be enormous, but it is favoured by the Grand Duke.

The second branches off from Samtredi, near Kutais, crosses the River Rhion at Orpiri, and on to Ozurgel and Batoum, and is considered the best from a commercial and strategic point of view.

The third is by simple tramway along the shore of the Black Sea from Poti, the coast is low and level, presenting no engineering difficulties, and the cost would be trifling.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 534.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 864.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 26, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, Grand Vizier agrees to appointment of Rustem Pacha, but in present state of affairs suggests that civil administration of province should be resumed by Porte, in conjunction with European Commission, in preference to its being confided strictly to the Porte. I learn from Wolff that he and the French and Austrian Commissioners are in favour of this arrangement.

No. 535.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 235.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 27, 1878.*

I HAVE received following message from Serajevo this morning:—

"Svornik surrendered. Five thousand Albanians said to have reached Visegrad to assist in the defence."

No. 536.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 27, 1878.*

FRONTIER Commissioners have agreed to decide all contested points by majority of votes, and that majority would appear to be already gained over to the side of Servia.

Austrian Minister, therefore, fears that Servian pretensions will be unduly favoured to the prejudice of Turkish and Austrian interests, and hopes that Her Majesty's Government will instruct British Commissioner to reject proposed arrangement, and to insist upon all disputed questions being solved by compromise among Commissioners or by reference to their respective Governments.

No. 537.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 27, 1878.*

ASSISTANT Commissioner telegraphs that Petco with other Bulgarian brigands is about to attack Turks in Rhodope. At request of Ambassador I telegraphed to

Assistant Commissioner to urge upon Governor-General, in conjunction with Vice-Consul, to prevent such useless effusion of blood.

Assistant Commissioner returns Saturday.

No. 538.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 27, 1878.*

GOVERNOR, after referring to Imperial Commissioner, refuses to interfere to stop Petco, saying that Akhir Cholebe is not in Eastern Roumelia.

I fear there will be a massacre.

No. 539.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, September 27, 1878.*

COMMISSION not yet met. Turkish phlegm and fastidiousness of nomination cause of delay. Think French and Austrian and Italian will probably be with us. Russian wishes for beginning near to Samakow. Desire to embroil the Commission with the insurgents. Pretext for movement of troops south. Hope complete Dobrudscha first. What part does Roumanian Government take in this frontier? Will they send Agent? Please reply by telegraph. Affecting question of beginning Dobrudscha, all the Commissioners have power both for Roumelia and Bulgaria, should my power be similar? Boundary of latter should not begin until Russia evacuates country, otherwise difficulty with the insurgents and Russian escort.

No. 540.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 27, 1878.*

MAJOR GORDON is appointed British member of the Commission for the demarkation of southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia. He is ready to start on Tuesday.

No. 541.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 27, 1878.*

LET me know at once if possible whether Major Gordon should take with him a full supply of instruments for survey. Lieutenant de Wolski will accompany him. He will be instructed to act under your instructions, and to refer to you on any questions of difficulty.

Should he start at once?

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[*] Similar telegrams were sent to Sir H. Elliot, Mr. Adams, Mr. Doring, Mr. Plunkett, Mr. Macdonell, and Colonel Home.

No. 542.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 69. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, September 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that this week has been one of extreme anxiety for the Turkish authorities and the Consuls here.

The details reaching this of the assassination of Mehemed Ali Pasha and the messages sent by the instigators of the deed appeared likely to urge the Mahommedans of Scutari into some act of violence in emulation of the crime, which they consider a bold expression of patriotism.

Nightly meetings at the mosque, and other localities much frequented during the present month of Ramadân, took place, and the reports of the discussions at these assemblies which reached the Christians tended to produce the greatest alarm.

It was said that the most excited of the Mahommedans advocated the perpetration of some act which would be as a pledge to their brethren of Jacova and Western Albania that Scutari had unreservedly entered the league for preserving Albania intact.

The Austrian Consul-General and his staff, together with two or three influential Slav Christians, and the establishments of the Franciscan monks, it was alleged, had been selected for sacrifice, and, if opposition was made by the Government, the Pashas were also to be among the victims.

M. Lippich, the Austrian Consul-General, after making inquiries, considered the above reports sufficiently substantiated to communicate them to Hussein Pasha, and to call upon his Excellency for protection.

My other colleagues also believed there was foundation for alarm, and I was even informed by them that they had heard that the English Consulate had been included in the "black list," as the Albanians were not convinced that the friendship of Great Britain had proved of much value to the Sultan.

The Pasha assured me that M. Lippich was the victim of his own fears, and that the only matter which had somewhat excited the natives against him was the publication of his nomination as one of the Austrian Delegates for the delimitation of the new Montenegrin frontiers.

I have ascertained from inquiries since made by me at sources acquainted with the proceedings of the National League, that the counsels of the more prudent among the Mahommedan Chiefs have prevailed, and that, if further occasion should arise for marking dissatisfaction with the Austrians, M. Lippich and his staff will be merely invited to withdraw from the country.

As for the reports concerning me, I have not been able to trace them beyond certain foreign channels anxious, through jealousy, to discredit British action in favour of Turkey.

Although the safety of the small European community is momentarily secured through the prudence of the Scutarine Mahommedan leaders, still it cannot be denied that danger is great when security is dependent on the decisions of barbarous and ignorant Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 543.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 70. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, September 15, 1878.*

THE present state of things in Albania has been fully foreshadowed by the Reports to your Lordship and to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of Acting Consul Summa.

The attempt of the Turkish Government to influence the decisions of the Congress at Berlin through the action of the populations in these countries has almost resulted in the destruction of its own authority, and it would now be extremely imprudent for the Porte to show here that it has changed its policy before it is in a position

to crush, by overpowering force, outbreaks arising from disappointed promises and hopes.

On the first signs of an attempt to proceed with the delimitation of the new Albano-Montenegrin frontiers the National League would probably set aside the Turkish authorities and assume the defence of the country.

These proceedings would most likely commence by a demand for the supply of arms and ammunition, and for the issue of orders to the troops to assist the natives in attacking Montenegro. The Pashas would either mark their refusal by resigning their commands and withdrawing, or follow the example of Mehemed Ali Pasha, and uselessly sacrifice their lives.

The assassinations of Jacova have rendered more difficult than ever the delivery of Goussinié and Plava to Montenegro, and it is to be hoped that Prince Nicholas will be content to (as His Highness told me this spring he would) accept a nominal cession from Turkey of this portion of the territory, and treat himself hereafter with the inhabitants for their acceptance of his rule.

Competent authorities have assured me that an army of 80,000 men would be required to subjugate the mountain tribes around Jacova, Ipek, Goussinié, and Plava. It must not be forgotten that the Sultan has never had any but a nominal authority in the Albanian mountains, and it is hardly likely that now, at the end of exhausting campaigns, the supreme Government will be able to accomplish what has hitherto proved unattainable.

If very considerable reinforcements of Anatolian and other troops, foreign in sympathies and nationality to Albania, are not quickly sent here to enforce the delivery of Spuz, Podgoritza, and Jabiuk to Montenegro, and to keep the Scutarines under subjection, I believe it would not be a bad thing for the future tranquillity of this country should the National League undertake its campaign against Montenegro, when it assuredly would be driven back, and would probably lose the above-named fortresses.

I understand that messengers have arrived here and at Podgoritza from Ali Pasha, of Goussinié, who has assumed command of the National League, in order to renew the pledges which had bound these districts together before the outbreak at Jacova, and to state that Ali Pasha, at the head of 30,000 men, awaits the signal to enter Montenegro.

Sentences of death have been issued against the members of the League representing, in the late assembly at Prisrend, Didra, Tirana, and several other more southern districts, for having refused to separate themselves from the Turkish authorities; but these members have not much to fear, as their tribes appear to approve of their conduct.

A report has also reached me that the League is ordering the garrisons of regular troops at some of the block-houses near Plava and Kolasein to withdraw, and leave their custody in the hands of the natives.

The Roman Catholic Albanian tribes, although they declare they will not swerve from their allegiance to the supreme Government, are treated with the greatest consideration by the League, and I cannot help, even now, believing that the days of the latter will be numbered, in all but districts like Goussinié and Granici, as soon as a conviction arises that the Porte is not a secret supporter of Albanian resistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 544.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 71. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, September* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that Hussein Pasha called on me yesterday afternoon and informed me that he had received a message the night before from M. Lippich, the Austrian Consul-General, to the effect that he had ascertained from a trustworthy source that the Mahommedans had decided to destroy the Austrian Consulate the following day (Sunday) at midnight; and M. Lippich sent the Pasha the names of three of the principal Beys of the place who were to lead the attack.

The Governor repeated his assurances that nothing of the kind would or could

occur, and that anyone attempting to force his way into the Austrian Consulate would first have to pass over his Excellency's dead body.

His Excellency begged me to assist him in calming the minds of my colleagues who, he said, by the importance they attached to the inventions of idle and mischievous people, were actually keeping the inhabitants of Scutari in such a state of nervousness that an unforeseen and trivial accident might develop into a serious danger.

Hussein Pasha is disposed to believe that M. Lippich is endeavouring to create a feeling of antagonism between the Christians and Mahommedans of North Albania in order to bring about conflicts between them, and thus afford the Austrians a pretext for pushing their advance as far as Novi-Bazar, and perhaps even to Prisrend. He has been led to this conclusion by the tone assumed by M. Lippich in his intercourse with him, and his persistence in wishing to transmit to his colleague at Prisrend telegrams reporting Austrian victories in Bosnia, when his Excellency has distinctly informed him that such a proceeding would probably endanger the life of the Prisrend Consul.

I trust that now Sunday night has passed without the realization of M. Lippich's fears more credence will be placed in the Pasha's assurances, and that the agitation also kept up by other Consuls than M. Lippich will not confirm the suspicion that more than one foreign Government may be hoping to see disorder and anarchy arise in North Albania.

I shall certainly endeavour to help to bring about a renewal of confidence between M. Lippich and Hussein Pasha, in order to frustrate attempts to complicate affairs in the manner above indicated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 545.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 45. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Corfu, September* 24, 1878.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the 19th instant, I have had an opportunity of conversing with the head of one of the most extensive and wealthy mercantile houses in Upper Epirus, established at Berat, with a branch at Durazzo, M. C. Landa, a gentleman well known for the active interest he takes in the education and enlightenment of his fellow-countrymen of the Orthodox creed.

2. He informs me that Italian political emissaries are spread all over the country, and are indefatigable in their efforts to familiarize the natives with an idea of an Italian protectorate. That one of the most active among the propagandists is the Roman Catholic Archbishop of the province, who has his seat at Mala (or Matt), a town in the interior, a few hours distant from Alessio, and so situated as to offer the greatest facilities for acting on the Roman Catholic populations all round in the direction of Antivari, Cuci, Ducagni, Durazzo, and Avlona. The clergy are principally Franciscans, generally very ignorant and extremely bigoted.

3. Anything like a regular Government can hardly be said to exist in the country, which is overrun by bands of marauders. On one point only are both Christians and Moslems agreed—a mortal dislike to the Greeks of the Kingdom—against whom, were they by any change of boundaries to be brought into closer contact, they would unite in fighting to the death.

4. He added that the Chimariot tribes are equally hostile to the Greeks, and that they had repelled all attempts to win them over by bribery. His information on this head tallied wonderfully with that reported by me in March last, only it appears that the name of the emissary employed by the Heteria of Corfu is Giufecca, and not Lekka, as I understood it at the time. This gentleman, a Chimariote by birth, afterwards contrived to make his peace with the Turks, and is in the full enjoyment of his liberty. There is a great deal of peacemaking, "à la Turque," in 75,000 fr.

5. All this looks very unfavourable to the project of extending the Greek frontier to Janina, or, indeed, to any addition whatever being made to Greek territory on the side of Epirus.

I have thus ventured to give the substance of my conversation with M. Landa, to whose statements I attach the fullest credence.

6. The Corfiote Heterists are beginning to talk mighty big again, but nothing will come of it. They have not fully digested the adventure of Licoursi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT

No. 546.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 795.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of this day, giving a telegram from General Todleben to the Emperor, dated $\frac{5th}{20th}$ September, reporting a visit which he had made to Adrianople on the $\frac{6th}{18th}$ instant.

Your Lordship will notice that General Todleben asserts that he was received by the Mussulman, Greek, Bulgarian, Armenian, and Jewish clergy, who all expressed their gratitude for the protection afforded them by the Russian authorities, and declared that never had such order existed, or such justice been maintained, as during the sojourn of the Russian troops, whose conduct had been exemplary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 546.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of September $\frac{11}{23}$, 1878.

JE suis arrivé Mercredi soir à Andrinople, où j'ai été reçu par le clergé Musulman, Grec, Bulgare, Arménien, et Israélite. Tous m'ont prié de mettre aux pieds de votre Majesté l'expression de leur reconnaissance infinie pour la protection qui leur a été assurée par l'autorité Russe.

Ils ont déclaré à cette occasion que jamais un ordre semblable et une telle justice n'avaient régné à Andrinople comme pendant le séjour qu'y ont fait nos troupes, dont la conduite a été exemplaire.

La ville était illuminée; sur toutes les mosquées et les portes figuraient les initiales de votre Majesté. Jeudi la ville était pavoisée de drapeaux Russes; en beaucoup d'endroits, dans les rues, on voyait les portraits de votre Majesté, entourés de couronnes.

Le soir, quand j'ai quitté la ville, toutes les maisons et les mosquées étaient de nouveau illuminées comme la veille et toute la population était sur pied.

No. 547.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 759.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 26, 1878.*

M. WADDINGTON told me to-day that he had received a report from M. Aubaret, the French Commissioner for the delimitation of the Servian frontier, from which it would appear that the members of the Commission now at Belgrade were hesitating somewhat to proceed to the scene of their labours, owing to the murder of Mehemet Ali.

His Excellency went on to say that, according to M. Aubaret, the Servian Government had offered the Commissioners an escort of a battalion of soldiers and two field-pieces, but that the Commissioners did not seem to consider this to be sufficient for their safety.

He begged me to inform your Lordship of the foregoing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 548.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 760. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 26, 1878.*

M. WADDINGTON spoke to me confidentially this afternoon with reference to the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

He said that he was afraid there were great difficulties in the way of its working smooth. The German Commissioner, he learnt, was a subordinate official, who would take no initiative, and the Turkish Commissioner was also likely to be a cypher.

His Excellency told me that he had received from M. Fournier an analysis by telegraph of information obtained from Sir Henry Layard with reference to the language of Prince Dondoukoff to Lord Donoughmore, which showed that opposition, especially to England, was to be expected from the Russian side. He considered, he added, that a good deal of the extraordinary language which the Russians seem to be holding must be laid down to bluster, but still he was very anxious to know what line Her Majesty's Government intended to take in reference to this matter, and to be informed confidentially of the tenour of their instructions to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff. He wished, in fact, he continued, that there should be an interchange of views between the two Governments, in order that he might be able to draw up his instructions for the French Commissioner, Baron de Ring.

I stated to M. Waddington that I had received a similar report of the language of Prince Dondoukoff, and that I would not fail to inform your Lordship of the desire of the French Government to learn the views of that of Her Majesty with reference to the Commission in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 549.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 761.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 26, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 695 of the 5th instant, and to previous correspondence respecting a proposed Commission of Inquiry into Turkish finance, M. Waddington told me to-day that Aarifi Pasha had informed him that it was intended that the Commission should consist of five—three Turks, one Frenchman, and one Englishman; that a high dignitary of the Porte should be the President, and that either the Englishman or the Frenchman should be Vice-President. Further, that the reforms proposed by the Commission should be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

M. Waddington said that, such being the case, he was inclined to look favourably upon the proposal, and would be prepared to name a Frenchman of experience to serve on the Commission.

At the same time he would be glad to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government with reference to this matter, and he would take no step without their concurrence.

His Excellency observed that if the Commission were constituted, care must be taken that it should not appear in any way to clash with that special Commission which, according to one of the Protocols signed at Berlin, was to be appointed with particular reference to the interests of the bondholders, and in which each of the Powers was to be represented.

I have, &c
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 550.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, September 27, 1878.*

AUSTRIAN and Italian Representatives have had audiences from the Prince, by order of their Governments, to communicate acceptance of designation as His Royal Highness. Not having had any instructions from your Lordship, I have not asked for such an audience, but presume that this designation is accepted by Her Majesty's Government.

With reference to my telegram of 23rd instant, though information may not have been altogether correct, it proceeded from a high Russian source, and bears undoubted evidence of prevailing apprehension that both sides of the Balkan are to continue to be occupied by an army much larger than consistent with Treaty.

No. 551.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 865.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1878.*

FOLLOWING received from Colonel Nixon, dated yesterday:—

"Disturbances have taken place amongst the Mouteflik Arabs around Goumak, and the gun-boats 'Seid' and 'Iskendern' have been dispatched to the spot. Telegraph line has been cut, and a loss of revenue this year is expected."

No. 552.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 866.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1878.*

FLEET left this morning for Artaki. Sultan sent Osman Pasha to me in full uniform to express his regret that circumstances had prevented him from visiting the fleet as he had intended, and to request me to express to the Queen his deep gratitude for the signal service that she had rendered to him and his empire by sending her ships for their defence. His Majesty desired me to convey to the Admiral, officers, and men of the fleet his high appreciation of the manner in which they had discharged their duties, and his warmest thanks for their friendly sentiments towards himself and his people.

His Majesty is particularly desirous that this message should be communicated to the Queen.

No. 553.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 867.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY has just communicated to me the following telegram from Count Andrassy, and has requested my support:—

"We are informed that several thousand Arnauts and Albanians are assembled in Sandjak of Novi-bazar, with the intention of advancing on Piregrad. Request Grand Vizier to at once take steps to verify accuracy of this information, and, if it should prove correct, ask his Highness to state categorically whether the Porte, in conformity with the promise it has given us to prevent any insurrectionary movement in the tongue of land in question, believes itself to possess the means and forces necessary to oppose such a movement.

"Report immediately Grand Vizier's answer."

No. 554.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 868.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Vice-Consul Calvert, dated Philippopolis, September 28:—

"Arif and Shaban Aghas are still in prison and very badly treated. They are heavily and cruelly chained."

No. 555.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 236. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 28, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY telegraphs that Musurus Pasha is recommending the Sultan not to consent to the Convention with Austria.

No. 556.

Sir H. Drummond-Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1878.*

BIDABRO EFFENDI, plenary Orthodox Armenian, called upon me yesterday to say that he had been appointed second Commissioner.

The Russian Commissioners called also. I told them I was instructed in the most conciliatory manner by Her Majesty's Government.

Grand Vizier convokes the Commission for Monday. I had urged this instead of Tuesday, so as to save transposition of month of September. The Russians were very civil; they will perhaps give way on preliminary points, but they are evidently preparing a battle.

No. 557.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September 28, 1878.*

FRENCH Government have instructed their Chargé d'Affaires to congratulate the Prince of Roumania on assuming the designation of His Royal Highness.

An agitation of Bulgarians is being got up for the purpose of protesting against the formation of Province of Roumelia, and likewise against the giving of the Dobrudscha to this country.

No. 558.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, September 28, 1878.*

IF Roumelian boundary is to be survey [ed?], Gordon should bring survey astronomical instruments.

Consider that attempt to trace Roumelian boundary before Russian evacuation will produce trouble. If it is consider [ed?] advisable to begin Roumelian frontier this winter, he should start at once.

Little work possible this year.

Shall require powers if I am to act for Roumelia. Please telegraph reply to last cypher.

No. 559.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Canea, Crete, September 28, 1878.*

MIDHAT PASHA arrived here this morning from Syra in a Turkish corvette.

No. 560.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 28, 1878*

HAVE you received any communication from the Porte with respect to our proposals of reform, or with respect to the declaration on ratification of the Convention of the 4th June.

No. 561.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Lascelles.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 28, 1878, 6·45 P.M.*

SENIOR naval officer at Aden has been directed to send a vessel to Massowah for protection of Europeans.

No. 562.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir L. Mallet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 28, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will inform Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India that Her Majesty's Government propose to send Mr. E. F. Harrison, Comptroller-General at Calcutta, to Constantinople, for the purpose of making inquiry into the financial condition of the Ottoman Empire.

The mission to be entrusted to Mr. Harrison is one to which Her Majesty's Government attach great importance, and the expenses incurred by him will be defrayed from Imperial funds. Lord Salisbury hopes, however, that the Secretary of State for India in Council will consent to Mr. Harrison being considered to be on active Indian service while engaged upon the mission in question.

I am to request that Lord Salisbury may be favoured with an early reply.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 563.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 237. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 29, 1878.*

IF the Porte should send a Circular such as that alluded to in Sir H. Layard's Secret telegram of the 21st, which I find in the prints received by messenger, it will produce here a feeling of exasperation that may affect the whole future policy of the Austrian Government towards Turkey.

No. 564.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 29, 1878.*

PRINCE MILAN has telegraphed direct to Sultan expressing his desire to renew their former friendly relations, and his Minister for Foreign Affairs also has telegraphed in a similar sense to Grand Vizier. They trust thereby to induce the Porte to send at once the Turkish Boundary Commissioner.

Further delays, they truly assert, will ruin the country on account of the large force they are compelled to maintain until the frontier question is settled.

His Highness therefore hopes for the support of Her Majesty's Government in the matter.

No. 565.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 29, 1878.*

MAJOR WILSON arrived last night, and begs me to report fact.

No. 566.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 782.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 12, 1878.*

IN the course of a conversation which I had with M. Melnikoff this afternoon, I informed him of the substance of the reply which, as I learnt from your Lordship's telegram of the 10th instant, Her Majesty's Government have given to the German proposal of an identic note urging the Turkish Government to comply with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and I inquired whether it was true, as I had been told, that the Imperial Government had already given its adhesion.

M. Melnikoff thereupon was good enough to read me the telegram which had been received by the Foreign Department from M. de Giers directing the reply which was to be given to the inquiry, which had been telegraphed to his Excellency at the request of the German Chargé d'Affaires. The words used by his Excellency were as follows:—

"Certes nous ne refusons pas de nous associer à la démarche proposée par l'Allemagne, mais nous ne pouvons nous abstenir de rappeler la réception défavorable donnée à la proposition analogue que nous avons faite au sein du Congrès."

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 567.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 794. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1878.*

RUMOURS have been current for some days that Russia would take advantage of the dangers to be anticipated from the Albanian League to find an excuse for not reducing the Russian army of occupation to the number which was fixed in the Treaty of Berlin.

I have just learnt from the Representative of one of the Great Powers, who, however, does not wish to be quoted, that the 12th, 13th, and 14th Corps d'Armée have not only received orders to stop their march homewards, but are daily receiving a large number of recruits, in order that the regiments may be kept up to their full strength.

These three corps are in addition to those which had been originally designated to form the army of occupation.

The reason which is confidentially given in military circles for this increase of the

Russian forces south of the Danube is that General Todleben has declared to the Emperor that the number of Turkish troops still remaining at Shumla and Varna is larger than the force which he otherwise would have at his disposal; and he is said, moreover, to have reported that the movements of the Turks in those fortresses inspired him with suspicion.

There would seem to be little doubt, from the various despatches of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, copies of which have from time to time been forwarded by your Lordship to this Embassy, that it has been a foregone conclusion with the Russian forces in Bulgaria and Roumelia that they were to remain there on one pretext or the other; but I feel it right to report that the decision now taken to maintain these three extra corps d'armée is causing much uneasiness to the Austrian Embassy, and seems to be, moreover, interpreted by other members of the Corps Diplomatique as more directly intended to watch the movements of that Power in Bosnia in a spirit which, if good opportunity were to offer, might easily become one of open hostility.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 568.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 797.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of the note which I addressed to M. de Giers on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 13th instant, informing his Excellency that Mr. Palgrave has been appointed Her Majesty's Consul-General in Bulgaria, and is the British Consular Officer delegated *ad hoc* to take part in the provisional administration of the Principality.

In order to expedite matters as much as I could, I took the note to Baron Osten Sacken, and having read it to him, requested he would be so good as to telegraph the substance of it at once to Livadia, drawing especially the attention of M. de Giers to the opinion expressed by Her Majesty's Government that it was very desirable the Commission should meet as soon as possible.

I inquired the day before yesterday of M. Osten Sacken whether he had yet received any acknowledgment of my communication from M. de Giers.

He replied that he had immediately telegraphed to Livadia as I had requested, but he imagined no answer would be sent by telegraph, as there could be no difference of opinion about the desirability of the Commission meeting as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 568.

Mr. Plunkett to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel, *St. Petersburgh, September* 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. W. G. Palgrave has been appointed Her Majesty's Consul-General in Bulgaria, and that Her Majesty's Government have delegated him as their Consular officer *ad hoc* to take part in the provisional administration of the Principality under the provisions of the VIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

In bringing the above nomination to the knowledge of the Imperial Government, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state that it seems very desirable that the Commission should meet as soon as possible.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 569.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 798.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the receipt of your Lordship's telegraphic despatch of the 9th instant, I informed M. Melnikoff that Her Majesty's Government had selected Colonel Home, of the Royal Engineers, to be the British Commissioner for the delimitation of Bulgaria.

M. Melnikoff tells me that he lost no time in informing M. de Giers of this appointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 570.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 800. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 24, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 7th instant to Mr. Bering, copy of which reached me in the last confidential print, informing him that you had learnt at the French Foreign Office that France had not signified her consent to the proposal of Germany for collective pressure on the Porte, I have the honour to state that the German Chargé d'Affaires was so good some days back as to read to me, in strict confidence, some portions of the report which had been sent to him from Berlin, summing up the answers which had been received from the various Governments.

In that despatch it was stated that France had originally given the German Government to understand that she would accede to their proposal, but that subsequently she had expressed her disapproval of it, and Count Berchem went on to say that this change in the policy of the French Government coincided exactly with the date of your Lordship's visit to Paris, and was supposed to be due to your Lordship's influence.

Whether this assertion was only an expression of Count Berchem's personal opinion, or whether he was still quoting from the despatch, I was unfortunately not able to distinguish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 571.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 805.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 24, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 764 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that Baron Osten Sacken informed me to-day that the sentence of death which had been passed upon Hadji Arif Agha had been commuted into some lighter punishment. He added that he believed an official communication to me on the subject might shortly be expected from Livadia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 572.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 809.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 25, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to report that I have informed M. Melnikoff that Major Wilson has been appointed

British Commissioner for the delimitation of Servia, and that he has been directed to proceed at once to Belgrade.

M. Melnikoff promised to telegraph this information to Livadia without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 573.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 811.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the translation, as published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," of the Proclamation addressed to the Armenian population by General Lazareff, in which he invites them not to leave their homes on the return of the Turks, but to remain there, and have full confidence in the protection which will be assured to them by the sympathy of Russia, and the other Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 573.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of September $\frac{11}{23}$, 1878.

NOUS avons annoncé qu'à l'époque de la remise de Batoum on avait publié à Erzéroum une Proclamation du Lieutenant-Général Lazareff adressée à la population Arménienne du vilayet d'Erzéroum qui fait retour à la Turquie. Voici le texte de cette Proclamation :—

"A la nation Arménienne, à Erzéroum et dans les provinces.

"J'ai appris que les habitants Chrétiens à Erzéroum et des localités voisines qui doivent être bientôt abandonnées par nos troupes, conformément au Traité conclu entre les Gouvernements de Russie et de Turquie, sont inquiets de leur situation à venir et craignent même pour leurs personnes.

"Elevé au poste éminent de Commandant-en-chef de toute la contrée, j'ai en main des données suffisantes, qui me sont parvenues de haut lieu, pour croire qu'après le départ de nos troupes personne ne viendra troubler votre repos et ne s'attaquera à vous pour empirer votre position. Si des personnes mal intentionnées se montrent parmi vous, et répandent de ces bruits alarmants dans des buts égoïstes ou pour d'autres raisons, et si ces personnes s'efforcent de vous persuader qu'une oppression terrible vous attend bientôt, écartez ces personnes de votre milieu, faites-les connaître aux autorités, et soyez convaincus que votre existence pacifique ne sera pas troublée. Ne tentez donc pas d'émigrer de la contrée où sont les tombeaux de vos ancêtres et où se trouvent vos familles. N'abandonnez pas la place où vous avez vécu jusqu'ici. Toute émigration amène des souffrances et des privations. Votre passage sur notre territoire surtout, dont vous ne connaissez pas les conditions vitales, entraînerait pour vous bien des illusions. Croyez que la sympathie manifestée à votre égard par notre Empereur et tout son peuple est partagée par les autres Puissances Européennes qui ont signé le Traité de Berlin. Je ne doute que pas le Gouvernement Ottoman ne s'acquitte avec empressement de toutes les obligations qui lui incombent à l'endroit de ses sujets Chrétiens et que des mesures ne soient prises par lui pour garantir vos propriétés et votre sécurité.

"Je me suis exprimé en ce sens en parlant à vos Représentants pendant mon séjour à Erzéroum. Profondément convaincu des intentions sincères de la Porte et de la fermeté de l'appui qui vous est assuré de toutes parts, je vous réitère l'invitation de vous soumettre aux autorités de votre propre Gouvernement et d'y voir une garantie sérieuse de votre bien-être. Si les affaires publiques m'en donnent le temps, je compte revenir à Erzéroum et vous dire encore moi-même personnellement ce que je vous fais savoir par la présente Proclamation. Je conclus en exprimant l'espoir que vous vous tiendrez à mes paroles et que vous tiendrez la ligne de conduite que j'ai cru devoir vous tracer.

No. 574.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 814.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship two copies of an article which has been published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of this morning, and which would seem to emanate from an official source.

It is an elaborate attack upon the manner in which the Commission appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Rhodope carried out its instructions, and it is an equally elaborate defence of the line of action followed by the Russian Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 574.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of September $\frac{13}{25}$, 1878.

NOUS avons promis hier de revenir sur la question du Rapport fantaisiste signé par trois membres—sur sept—de la Commission Internationale du Rhodope. Sans trop nous préoccuper des commentaires malveillants à l'adresse de nos braves troupes que ce soi-disant Rapport a suggérés à divers organes de la presse étrangère,—commentaires dont certains d'entre eux font maintenant l'objet de rétractations, en déclarant, comme nous le lisons, par exemple, dans le "Temps" de Paris, que "quiconque a vu de près l'armée Russe, n'a pu douter un seul instant que les rapports émanés de quelques Commissaires dans les Monts Rhodope ne fussent sujets à révision;" sans trop nous soucier de ces réflexions haineuses, disons-nous, nous croyons devoir exposer succinctement, sans récriminations ni incriminations, le but des travaux de la Commission du Rhodope et indiquer la marche qu'elle a suivie, ainsi que le résultat auquel elle a abouti.

Dans la dix-huitième séance du Congrès de Berlin (voir les Protocoles), le Comte Schouvaloff fit savoir que Lord Salisbury avait reçu des télégrammes signalant les plus déplorables désordres dans les Monts Rhodope. En conséquence, et relevant le fait que les localités dont il s'agissait étaient en dehors de l'action de l'armée Russe, son Excellence proposa, de concert avec le Marquis de Salisbury, l'envoi sur place de Commissaires Européens qui seraient chargés de provoquer l'adoption de mesures répressives. Cette proposition fut adoptée et le Comte de St. Vallier rédigea, avec le Marquis de Salisbury, un projet de résolution portant "qu'il avait lieu de recommander aux Ambassadeurs à Constantinople de s'entendre avec la Sublime Porte pour l'envoi immédiat d'une Commission Européenne chargée de vérifier sur les lieux la gravité des faits et de chercher à y apporter remède dans la mesure du possible." Ce projet de résolution reçut l'adhésion unanime du Congrès.

Voilà donc quel était, d'après le Congrès de Berlin, le but de la Commission Internationale du Rhodope. Voyons maintenant comment elle a compris et exécuté sa mission.

Pour connaître l'origine de ce qu'on appelle l'insurrection du Rhodope, il faut remonter à l'époque de l'armistice, lorsque nos troupes quittèrent la ligne fixée par l'armistice pour se replier sur la ligne de la frontière du Traité de San Stefano. Le district d'Akhi-Thelebe, situé entre ces deux lignes, resta sans aucune autorité. La population, qui se compose en majeure partie de Pomaks qui n'ont jamais été définitivement soumis par la Porte, en profita, et, aidée par les restes de l'armée de Souléiman Pacha, se souleva. Les Bachi-Bouzouks et la masse des émigrés Musulmans fournirent les éléments nécessaires pour alimenter cette insurrection. Le Chef que les insurgés se choisirent était un émigré Polonais, nommé Sinclair. Une fois organisées, les bandes insurrectionnelles descendirent dans les plaines et franchirent nos lignes de démarcation. La Porte, sans protéger ouvertement ce mouvement, voyait avec satisfaction l'embarras que cette situation nous causerait. Néanmoins, invitée par M. le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée du Sud à mettre fin à cet état de choses, la Porte envoya deux Pachas pour pacifier le pays. Ces fonctionnaires n'ayant mis aucune bonne volonté à remplir cette tâche, leur mission échoua complétement.

Il ne nous restait plus qu'à recourir à la force, et c'est ce que firent nos autorités militaires. Le Général Stolypine, qui Commandait à Philippopoli, envoya plusieurs

détachements qui chassèrent les insurgés et les refoulèrent au-delà de nos lignes. C'est à cette époque, c'est-à-dire dans la seconde moitié du mois de Mai (vieux style) que les insurgés s'intitulant: "Gouvernement Provisoire des Pomaks," adressèrent des appels chaleureux tant à Constantinople qu'à Londres pour demander des secours. Ces appels furent entendus; une société Anglaise se forma et leur dépêcha, munis de secours de toute espèce, deux Colonels Anglais avec M. Whitaker, ancien rédacteur du "Levant Herald."

Le Représentant de la Russie à Constantinople, de son côté, ne manqua pas d'appeler l'attention de la Porte sur l'état d'anarchie qui continuait à régner dans les Monts Rhodope. Safvet Pacha décida alors d'envoyer sur les lieux un fonctionnaire Ottoman qui, se concertant avec les autorités Russes, devait travailler à la pacification du pays, et tâcher de faciliter le rapatriement des émigrés.

C'est sur ces entrefaites que les Ambassadeurs des Puissances à Constantinople reçurent par télégraphe communication de la décision prise par le Congrès de Berlin, qu'une Commission Internationale se rendrait dans le Rhodope avec les instructions que l'on connaît.

Le télégramme indiquait comme un des buts de la Commission, la recherche des motifs qui avaient amené la fuite des réfugiés, et qui les avaient empêchés de retourner chez eux. Cette question n'avait cependant pas été touchée par le Congrès, qui s'était occupé exclusivement de la mission philanthropique et toute pratique de remédier aux souffrances des populations du Rhodope. En outre, la Commission reçut pour instruction de s'enquérir de l'état des populations, de leurs souffrances, et des moyens de les rapatrier et de les secourir dans la mesure du possible.

La participation à la Commission du Consul Anglais, Mr. Fawcett, connu par ses opinions hostiles à la Russie, et qui par ses connaissances locales devait exercer la plus grande influence sur ses collègues, ne laissait d'emblée aucun doute sur l'attitude que la Commission observerait à l'égard de la Russie et des troupes Impériales. En effet, ces appréhensions se réalisèrent dès les premières séances de la Commission, où, contrairement à l'esprit qui avait dicté la résolution du Congrès, on perdit de vue le but précis et formel de la Commission pour rejeter sur les Bulgares et sur les troupes Russes la faute des souffrances endurées par les Musulmans. Malgré les protestations du Commissaire Russe, M. Basily, cette tendance continua à s'affirmer dans les séances ultérieures de la Commission, tenues à Philippopoli, à Xanthe, à Ghumuldjina, à Mostanly, à Kerdjalli, à Kara-Tarla, à Kouchoublar, et dans diverses autres localités. Partout on adopta pour système d'interroger les délégués de chaque caza ou de chaque province par groupes, qui, choisis par les autorités locales, répétaient comme une leçon apprise les récits de prétendues violences commises par nos troupes.

M. Basily proposa, pour empêcher cette manière de procéder, de ne faire comparaître que les réfugiés habitant au moment donné le même village, en réservant à la Commission le droit de choisir la personne qui parlerait au nom de chaque groupe; ces deux propositions furent rejetées par la Commission. Dans cet état de choses, le Commissaire Russe se décida à tenter un dernier effort. Il rappela à la Commission la tâche exclusivement philanthropique qui lui était confiée, lui contesta le droit d'attaquer l'œuvre libératrice entreprise par notre glorieuse armée et menaça de quitter la Commission, si elle persistait à vouloir suivre la même voie. Il protesta de la façon la plus énergique contre les accusations formulées à l'adresse de nos troupes, en déclarant que les dépositions des témoins entendus étaient fausses et préparées d'avance par les meneurs de l'insurrection. Le Commissaire Allemand seul appuya le Commissaire Russe.

Toutes ces protestations furent vaines. L'opposition énergique du nouveau Commissaire Russe, M. Leschine (qui dans l'intervalle avait remplacé M. Basily, tombé malade), ne put faire modifier la direction que la Commission avait prise dès le début. L'enquête terminée, c'est-à-dire une enquête faite sur un objet absolument autre que celui indiqué par la décision unanime du Congrès de Berlin, les membres de la Commission du Rhodope se réunirent chez le Commissaire Anglais, Mr. Fawcett, à Thérapia, pour entendre la lecture du Rapport final, faite par le Commissaire Français. Les conclusions de ce soi-disant Rapport sont un véritable chef-d'œuvre. En voici la teneur, sans commentaire:—

1. La protection de l'Europe doit remplacer celle de la Russie, qui est insuffisante.
2. Une Commission Internationale doit s'occuper du rapatriement des insurgés.
3. La Roumélie doit être évacuée par les troupes Russes et une police internationale doit y être organisée.
4. Les Bulgares de la Roumélie doivent être invités à quitter la Roumélie et à aller habiter la Bulgarie.

5. Une partie des réfugiés Musulmans doit être colonisée.

Le Commissaire Russe refusa naturellement de signer un pareil acte. Invité à formuler une proposition, M. Leschine posa à la Commission la question de savoir si la conduite des troupes Russes pendant et après la guerre devait faire l'objet de l'enquête dont la Commission était chargée. Le Commissaire Italien ajouta à cette question l'amendement suivant:—"En tant que la conduite de l'armée Russe se rattache à la mission humanitaire de la Commission." Ainsi amendée, la question fut approuvée par tous les délégués, à l'exception de celui d'Allemagne. A la suite de ce vote, M. Leschine annonça que, conformément à ses instructions, il sortait de la Commission. Le Délégué Allemand se trouva alors dans une position embarrassante, ayant reçu pour instructions de ne pas se séparer des Commissaires Austro-Hongrois et Russe. Il ne sortit pas de la Commission.

La résolution prise par M. Leschine était d'autant plus naturelle que les conclusions du Rapport tendaient d'une manière manifeste à la révision du Traité de Berlin et que pareille prétention dépassait la compétence non-seulement d'une Commission de Consuls, mais même de la réunion des Ambassadeurs des Puissances à Constantinople. Mais aussi plus la Commission s'était montrée extravagante dans ses conclusions, plus ses travaux étaient condamnés à rester stériles. C'est ce qui arriva en effet. Les Commissaires ne purent pas s'entendre sur une rédaction acceptable du Rapport de leurs travaux. Il en résulta que les Délégués d'Angleterre, de France, d'Italie et de Turquie présentèrent des Rapports identiques à leurs Chefs, tandis que les Délégués Allemand et Austro-Hongrois avaient reçu l'ordre de ne pas signer cet acte. Pour les engager à le faire, la Commission s'était efforcée subséquemment d'atténuer des expressions trop fortes à l'adresse de l'occupation Russe, mais, malgré ces changements, les Commissaires Allemand et Austro-Hongrois ne reçurent pas l'autorisation d'apposer leur signature à un acte qui impliquait en substance la désapprobation des stipulations du Traité de Berlin et une critique malveillante de la conduite de notre armée. Au dernier moment, le Délégué Italien reçut de son Gouvernement l'ordre de retirer sa signature apposée au Rapport final.

Ainsi, comme nous l'avons déjà constaté, sur sept Commissaires qui ont pris part aux délibérations de la Commission du Rhodope, trois seulement ont signé le Rapport, ce qui veut dire que cet étrange document a perdu par là toute signification pratique.

No. 575.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 818. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 25, 1878.

THE Greek Ministers communicated some time ago, through Baron Osten Sacken, to the Russian Government, the Circular despatch in which his Government invokes the intervention of the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin.

I now learn that M. de Giers telegraphed as follows on the 7/19th instant to Prince Labanoff:—

"Vous êtes chargé de vous associer aux demandes de vos collègues, et de continuer vos efforts dans le but de sauvegarder les intérêts des autres nationalités."

The first part of this telegram will be communicated to-day or to-morrow to M. de Bruïas by Baron Osten Sacken, and will form the Russian reply to the demand made on her by Greece.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 576.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 822.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 26, 1878.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, desiring me to ascertain the view taken by the Russian Government of the construction to be placed on Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, I drew up the Memorandum, copy of which is herewith inclosed, and, handing it to Baron Osten Sacken, requested him to telegraph it to M. de Giers.

He said he would do so immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 576.

Memorandum.

LORD SALISBURY désire savoir comment le Gouvernement Russe comprend l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

Pense-t-il que la Porte s'est engagée à prendre l'avis de la Commission Européenne instituée pour la Roumélie Orientale aussi pour les modifications qui seraient jugées équitables dans le Règlement Organique de 1868 pour l'Ile de Crète.

Ambassade d'Angleterre, le $\frac{12}{24}$ Septembre, 1878.

No. 577.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 486.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 21, 1878.*

ALTHOUGH in general there exists here a disposition to wait with patience the result of the mediation which it is expected the great Powers will undertake at Constantinople to bring about a settlement of the Turco-Greek question, public feeling throughout the country is reported as being very much depressed, and not sanguine as to any satisfactory solution of the question being arrived at by negotiation. Rumours of all kinds are daily circulated, especially as to the attitude of England in the matter, and accusations of deception and the non-fulfilment of engagements on the part of Her Majesty's Government are freely expressed.

The Greek Government professes not to share these feelings, and to be prepared to await with patience the result of their appeal to the Powers.

I have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" taken from a paper which is understood to have a semi-official character. In this notice it is sought to tranquillize the country and induce it to wait with patience the action of the Governments who signed the Treaty of Berlin, and are described, somewhat prematurely perhaps, as about to mediate immediately in some form or other.

The rumour that Great Britain had refused to act with Germany in a manner favourable to the Greek aspirations has produced a strong feeling against us, and much discouragement.

I cannot learn, however, that Germany has proposed to do anything in that direction, and M. Delyanni informs me that he has received from the Greek Minister at Berlin no information whatever on the subject.

It is probably one of the daily reports circulated by the telegraph throughout Europe which has little or perhaps no foundation in fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 577.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes."

L'ORGANE de M. le Président du Conseil a publié (Mardi) la note suivante:—

"La solution de la question Turco-Hellénique sur les bases indiquées par le Congrès de Berlin continue à être l'objet de la sollicitude des Puissances. La médiation des Puissances, qu'elle se produise d'une manière collective ou d'une manière isolée, mais toujours par des déclarations identiques, sera bientôt un fait accompli. Il ne faut donc pas ajouter foi à des nouvelles contraires au bon sens et à la nature même des choses.

"Le Traité de Berlin n'est ni le résultat d'une surprise, ni une convention rédigée au hasard par les parties contractantes. Comme les faits l'ont prouvé, ce Traité est la manifestation extérieure de besoins et d'intérêts d'ordre Européen dont le réglement et l'exécution ont été sanctionnés par l'instrument de paix de Berlin.

"Donc, les intérêts qui ont dicté ce Traité plaident eux-mêmes en faveur de son exécution."

Cette note a été évidemment communiquée pour rassurer les esprits alarmés par la nouvelle que le Cabinet Anglais aurait refusé de s'associer aux démarches proposées par le Gouvernement Allemand en vue d'exercer une pression sur la Porte en ce qui concerne la rectification des frontières du Royaume Hellénique.

No. 578.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 20. Political.)
My Lord, *Jassy, September 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the last of the Russian troops stationed here, consisting of a portion of a battalion of the Reserves, have left for Ungheni, and at present there are only a few Russian officers remaining in this town, several of whom will also leave, I am told, in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

No. 579.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 546.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September 27, 1878.*

ON the receipt, yesterday, of your Lordship's despatch No. 429 of the 13th instant, I called upon Herr von Bülow, and in conformity with your Lordship's instructions, inquired of his Excellency what constructions was placed by the German Government on the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, pointing out the possibility of a question arising before the International Commission for Eastern Roumelia as to whether paragraph 4 of the above Article referred to the modifications to be introduced in the "Règlements Organiques" of Crete, as alluded to in paragraph 1, or not.

His Excellency, after carefully reading over a copy of Article XXIII which I had taken with me, said he could tell me at once that his impression was that it was certainly intended by Congress that the International Commission should have a voice in whatever reforms might be proposed in the internal administration of Crete, but he would look carefully into the matter, and give me a definite answer in writing.

I thanked his Excellency for this opinion, at which I said I felt sure Her Majesty's Government would be gratified, as it was one to which they themselves inclined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 580.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 768.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 28, 1878.*

WHEN I saw M. Waddington yesterday evening, I informed his Excellency, as directed by your Lordship's despatch No. 626 of the 26th instant, that Major Wilson, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the delimitation of the Servian frontier, started from London on Tuesday last, the 24th instant, with the intention of proceeding direct to Belgrade with the least delay possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 581.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 769.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 28, 1878.*

I HAVE informed M. Waddington, according to your Lordship's telegram of 6·30 P.M. yesterday, that Major Gordon is appointed British member of the Commission for the demarcation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia, and that he is ready to start on Tuesday next, the 1st October.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 582.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, September 30.)

[B.B.]
M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le 18 Septembre, 1878.*

LES informations que nous recevons d'Athènes nous apprennent que le Gouvernement Hellénique, s'appuyant sur les rapports de ses Consuls en Epire et en Thessalie, accuse la Sublime Porte d'exciter le fanatisme des Albanais contre la Grèce, et de leur procurer dans cette pensée d'agression des armes et des munitions. Ces imputations calomnieuses sont portées par le Cabinet d'Athènes à la connaissance des Cabinets Européens dans le but de justifier les préparatifs militaires de la Grèce, et de leur donner pour cause la nécessité de pourvoir à des mesures purement défensives, tandis qu'il est évident que ces préparatifs constituent une menace directe d'agression contre l'Empire Ottoman.

Je vous prie de donner un démenti formel à ces imputations, en en dévoilant la cause et le but, et en déclarant que les rôles ont été complétement intervertis.

En effet, nous avons chaque jour à constater les manœuvres des agents Hellènes en Epire et en Thessalie, pour agiter et soulever les populations paisibles de ces deux provinces. De l'autre côté, le Gouvernement Hellénique prend des dispositions pour mettre en ligne avant un mois une armée de 40,000 soldats, avec une réserve de 35,000 hommes. Ce fait, rapproché des commandes considérables faites pour l'armée Grèceque, et de l'emprunt de 50,000,000 fr. que le Gouvernement contracte à l'étranger, ne peut laisser subsister aucun doute sur les intentions agressives du Cabinet d'Athènes.

Il est nécessaire que les Grandes Puissances et l'opinion publique soient éclairées et mises en garde contre la propagande insidieuse de la politique Hellénique.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 583.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, September 30.)

[B.B.]
M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le 18 Septembre, 1878.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint copie d'un Rapport que vient de m'adresser notre Ministre à Athènes, pour me rendre compte d'un entretien qu'il a eu avec M. Coumoundouros au sujet de la résistance qui serait organisée en Epire par des émissaires de la Sublime Porte dans le cas éventuel d'une cession territoriale à la Grèce.

Le Gouvernement Impérial repousse formellement de semblables imputations. Nous répudions aussi toute solidarité, tout accord, toute communauté de vues, avec la soi-disant "Ligue Albanaise," de même que nous avons répudié toute participation aux événements de Bosnie.

Le Gouvernement Hellénique intervertit les rôles et peut-être ne dirige-t-il contre nous une dénonciation sans fondement que pour donner le change sur sa propre conduite. Il ne nous serait pas difficile d'établir que les Agents Consulaires Helléniques en Epire se sont faits ces derniers temps, en vertu d'instructions venues d'Athènes, les instigateurs d'une agitation contre l'autorité légitime. Comme preuve de ces agissements il me suffit de vous signaler le télégramme ci-joint adressé par M. Coumoundouros au Consul de Grèce à Janina, enjoignant à cet Agent de préparer les esprits des Musulmans par des assurances et des promesses en vue d'une annexion au Royaume Hellénique.

Le Gouverneur-Général de Janina fait connaître à la Sublime Porte que le télégramme en question a soulevé toute la population Albanaise, et qu'il a fallu user de toute l'influence des autorités locales pour calmer les esprits.

Je crois devoir vous fournir les éclaircissements qui précèdent, en vous priant d'y conformer votre langage dans le cas où vous seriez interpellé par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique sur une communication du Cabinet d'Athènes au sujet de la situation en Epire.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 583.

Photiades Bey to Safvet Pasha.

Athènes, le 27 Août, 1878.

M. COUMOUNDOUROS, dans une entrevue que j'ai eue avec lui la veille du retour à Athènes de M. Delyanni, m'a communiqué, dans une forme privée, un télégramme qu'il venait de recevoir du Consul de Grèce à Prévésa et dans lequel il était question du travail qu'Abheddin Bey, de concert avec Veissel Bey, poursuivrait en Epire pour préparer la population Musulmane à une résistance opiniâtre dans le cas éventuel d'une cession territoriale à la Grèce.

Le dit télégramme ajoutait en outre que cette tactique était la conséquence d'un mot d'ordre donné par la "Ligue Albanaise" avec le consentement de la Sublime Porte, favorisant les idées et les projets de cette ligue, et qu'elle était en rapport immédiat avec les événements qui se passent en Bosnie.

J'ai repoussé dans les termes les plus énergiques les insinuations contenues dans le télégramme précité tendant à représenter la Sublime Porte comme solidaire de la "Ligue Albanaise" et à rejeter, en quelque sorte, sur le Gouvernement Impérial, la responsabilité des événements de la Bosnie.

Comme M. Coumoundouros n'aura pas manqué de faire du télégramme en question l'objet d'une communication aux Cabinets de l'Europe, j'ai cru de mon devoir d'en informer votre Altesse.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) PHOTIADES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 583.

M. Coumoundouros to the Greek Consul at Janina.

Le 7 Août, 1878.

IL n'y a point de doute que la décision du Congrès de Berlin ne soit exécutée par la cession des provinces. Par conséquent, vous devez préparer les esprits des Musulmans en les assurant qu'ils jouiront de toute sécurité et de toute prospérité sous le Gouvernement Hellénique, et qu'ils occuperont proportionnellement les mêmes grades et emplois que les citoyens Hellènes.

(Signé) COUMOUNDOUROS.

No. 584.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received September 30.)

Sir, *Admiralty, September* 29, 1878.

WITH reference to your letter of the 18th instant, forwarding the copy of a despatch from Captain Fife relative to the defence of the Gallipoli Peninsula after the withdrawal of the armies and fleets from the neighbourhood of Constantinople, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Marquis of Salisbury that they concur with Captain Fife as to the great importance of taking precautions to prevent the seizure of Gallipoli, and they trust that measures calculated to prevent any sudden and successful attack of that kind may be adopted. My Lords also consider it advisable that some competent person should be on the spot to warn Her Majesty's Ambassador of any threatening circumstances so long as a Russian army remains within Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 585.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 238.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 30, 1878.

MR. FREEMAN has telegraphed as follows:—

"Livno surrendered yesterday, the 28th instant. There only now remains the line of the Drina to be occupied."

No. 586.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 239.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 30, 1878.

MAJOR GONNE considers that there is no advantage in his remaining longer with the Austrian army as they have no enemy before them, and proposes to return to Brod, where he says he could obtain better information of what is passing.

If he returns it would not be easy to obtain permission for another officer to go to the head-quarters, and I shall not authorize him to come back without instructions from your Lordship, as it may be thought desirable that he should remain in Bosnia till Visehegrad is taken, and till it is certain that no advance will be made into the Novi-Bazar district this year.

No. 587.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 869. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 30, 1878.

SULTAN spoke to me to-day about our difficulties with Afghanistan, and begged me to tell Her Majesty's Government that, if he could in any way assist England, he was ready to do so. If Her Majesty's Government approved, he would at once send a Secret Agent to Afghanistan, and would, as Caliph and Head of the Mahommedan world, enjoin Mussulmans not to offer opposition to England, and to oppose the policy of Russia. He believes that such a mission as he proposes would not be without effect.

He asks that the person whom he may select for it may be assured a safe-conduct through India to the Afghan frontiers. Will you let me know what answer I may give His Majesty, whom I thanked for his friendly offer.

No. 588.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 870.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 30, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, the answer to my note about reforms had been approved by the Council; but learning, confidentially, that it was not satisfactory as regards the employment of Europeans, I remonstrated strongly with Grand Vizier. Another answer has been prepared, which was to be ready to-day, to the Council of Ministers, and which Grand Vizier assures me will satisfy me. I shall press for its immediate delivery. Grand Vizier has [requested] me to leave it to him to persuade Sultan to consent to withdrawal of the Declaration, which he promises me he will be able to effect.

No. 589.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 872.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 30, 1878.

I FOUND Sultan yesterday still very resolute not to accept the Convention proposed by Count Andrassy. I represented to him as strongly as I could the dangers of an Austrian advance to Novi-Bazar with the co-operation of Servia and Montenegro, but he declared himself ready to meet them rather than give way. He said that as it was evident that Austria intended simply to annex provinces which belonged to him, he could not sanction this act of spoliation, but would (?) protest against and look forward to a time when he could vindicate his rights. He assured me, at the same time, most solemnly, that he had done nothing to encourage or support opposition to Austria in Bosnia and Albania, and he mentioned several instances to prove that he had done his best to prevent and check it.

With reference to my telegram of 28th, Grand Vizier states that he has sent peremptory orders to Pasha of Kossova to take measures to prevent assembly of armed bands in province and their passage into Bosnia.

No. 590.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 30, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram sent to Constantinople:—

"On account of Albanians, Boundary Commission cannot at present safely attempt to begin work. If Turkish troops at Pristina or neighbourhood could be moved to frontier opposite Vranja, Servians would send sufficient force from thence,

and thus, on this important section of the frontier, safety of the Commission might be insured. Should this suggestion be feasible, Commission could await at Nisch Turkish Commissioner."

No. 591.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

Belgrade, September 30, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

REQUESTED to telegraph, by Major Wilson, as follows:—

"Commissioners of other Powers believe their instructions authorize them to mark the boundary between Servia and Bulgaria, and propose to proceed with that work first, in consequence of difficulties connected with boundary between Servia and Turkey. My instructions leave this to Bulgarian Commission. Can I act with other Commissioners?

"No Commissioner has been appointed for Turkey. Can the Commission proceed to mark Turkish-Servian or Servian and Bulgarian boundary without Turkish Commissioner?"

No. 592.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

Tehran, September 30, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 25th and 26th, I have received the following from Viceroy of India:—

"I quite agree Persian Mission to Cabul would be inopportune. Your action in stopping it is much appreciated. We have come to open rupture with Cabul Ameer, and are likely to cross Afghanistan border in a few weeks with troops. Will keep you informed of events. Please reciprocate early information regarding [connected] affairs.

No. 593.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30, 2·30 P.M.)

Rome, September 30, 1878, 1 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT CORTI, to whom I communicated Major Gordon's appointment, states he was not aware that a Commission was to assemble for the demarkation of southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 594.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30, 2·10 P.M.)

Rome, September 30, 1878, 1 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT CORTI says that Italian Government would not ask to be represented in the Egyptian Ministry if France did not claim same privilege.

As yet no one has been selected for the post.

Chamber will probably await nomination of French member to press their claim.

No. 595.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General White.

Foreign Office, September 30, 1878, 2·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th instant, as to title of Prince of Roumania, intimate, in the same form as that observed by Austria, readiness of Her Majesty's Government to address him in the same manner.

No. 596.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, September 30, 1878, 2·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DO you know anything of an alleged Memorial addressed by Murif Effendi to the Sultan, recommending measures to organize a general union of all Mussulmans, with Sultan as their head?

No. 597.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

Foreign Office, September 30, 1878, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 27th instant, request Major Wilson to erase from his Instructions paragraph stating that it will be desirable that Commission should settle questions by vote of majority. A revised Instruction will be sent to him. If the question is raised he should refer home.

No. 598.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, September 30, 1878, 3·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AGREE to proposal in your telegram No. 864 as to administration of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 599.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

Foreign Office, September 30, 1878, 4.15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ROUMANIA has no Treaty right to take part in demarkation, and can only be present as looker a on.

Gordon is commissioned to survey Eastern Roumelian boundary, and will do his best to begin at Black Sea end, so as to avoid insurgents. If you are wanted for Roumelian southern and western boundary, further instructions and Commission will be sent; but I do not think it probable.

No. 600.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Lascelles.

Foreign Office, September 30, 1878, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ADMIRAL CORBETT reports that Her Majesty's ship "Wild Swan" sailed for Massowah on Saturday.

No. 602.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received September* 30, 5·40 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 30, 1878, 4·10 P.M.

COUNT CORTI fully agrees with interpretation set by your Lordship on Article XXIII as conveyed by §§ 2 and 3 of your No. 17 to Sir H. Drummond-Wolff of the 10th instant.

No. 603.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1173.) *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram No. 864 of the 26th instant, I have informed you by telegraph that Her Majesty's Government are ready to agree to the arrangement proposed to you by the Grand Vizier that the administration of Eastern Roumelia should be exercised by the Porte, in conjunction with the European Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 604.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1179.) *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE this day inquired of your Excellency by telegraph whether you have any knowledge of a memorial alleged to have been addressed by Murif Effendi, Turkish Minister of Public Instruction, to the Sultan, recommending that measures should be taken to organize a general union of all Mussulmans in Asia, under the Sultan as their religious head, in his capacity of representative of the Caliphs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 605.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 503.) *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1878.

Sir,

I AM surprised at learning from your Excellency that Count Zichy is under the impression that Musurus Pasha is recommending the Sultan not to consent to the conclusion of a Convention with Austria respecting the provinces which she is to occupy. When I saw Musurus Pasha in Paris on the 4th instant, he certainly did not entertain those sentiments, on the contrary, he more than once repeated to me his conviction that it was necessary that Bosnia should belong to Austria. The rumour, which appears from your telegram of the 28th instant to have reached Count Zichy, should be received with much reserve.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 606.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

(No. 633.) *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1878.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government propose to send a financier of experience to Constantinople, to investigate the resources at the command of the Porte, and have selected for this mission Mr. E. F. Harrison, Comptroller-General at Calcutta.

I should wish you to inform the French Government of this intention, and to state that, if they decide also to commission a gentleman to undertake a similar inquiry, Mr. Harrison will be happy to communicate and co-operate with him. You should add, however, that it in any case it is not desirable that the joint action in this matter should go beyond France and England, as the efficiency of the inquiry would be materially affected by the appointment of a large number of Commissioners.

You may further explain that, if the Commission to which the Porte have proposed to invite a French and English member should be brought into effective operation, Her Majesty's Government propose to appoint Mr. Harrison as the English member for that purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 606.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 1. Political.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1878.

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Consul-General in the new Principality of Bulgaria, constituted by the Treaty of Berlin of the 13th July last, you are hereby nominated to be the Consular Officer delegated *ad hoc* by Her Majesty's Government to assist the Imperial Russian Commissioner charged with the provisional administration of the Principality, in conformity with Article VI of that Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 607.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 2. Political.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1878.

I HAVE to give you the following instructions for your guidance in the duties which will devolve upon you as the Consular Officer delegated by Her Majesty's Government to take part in the control of the provisional administration of Bulgaria.

Article VI of the Treaty of Berlin, of which a copy is herewith inclosed, defines the composition, powers, and mode of procedure of the Commission of which you are a member. The actual administration of the Principality remains, during the term of its provisional government, in the hands of a Russian Commissioner; and it will be the business of the Ottoman Commissioner and of the Consuls delegated by the Powers parties to the Treaty to assist him in his duties, and to exercise a control over the administration. It will be their duty to see that the provisions of the Treaty relating to the constitution of the Principality are faithfully observed and carried into effect, and to bring at once to the notice of the Russian Commissioner, or, if necessary, to that of the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, any regulations or occurrences which may have a tendency to defeat the intentions of the Powers.

One of the principal matters that will merit their attention will be the precautions to be taken to secure that the Assembly of Notables, to be convoked at Tirnova under Article IV of the Treaty, for the purpose of drawing up the Organic Law of the Principality, shall duly represent the wishes and interests of all classes of the population according to the provisions of the second paragraph of that Article; and that this body, when so convoked, shall enjoy proper freedom of discussion and debate, and full facilities for the examination of the questions on which it has to decide. The same care will be required to insure complete freedom in the election of the Prince who is to have the eventual government of the Principality.

You will observe that by Article VII of the Treaty it is stipulated that the provisional administration of the Principality shall not last beyond the space of nine months from the ratification of the Treaty, by which time the Organic Law must be completed, and the elections held for the choice of the Prince.

By Article XXII the Russian army of occupation in Bulgaria and the neighbouring province of Roumelia, which is limited in number to 50,000 men, is bound to evacuate those countries at the end of the same period. The ratifications of the Treaty having been exchanged on the 3rd August last, the limit of the provisional administration and of the Russian occupation, is fixed for the 3rd May, 1879.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the conduct of the provisional administration should be directed with a view to the establishment of a state of things favourable to the stability and good working of the Government which is to succeed it. That Government is to be based on the conditions stated in Article V of the Treaty, providing for complete civil and religious freedom for all creeds and confessions, and the absence of all civil or political disabilities on religious grounds. If these stipulations are to have any meaning, it will not be sufficient that they should be merely reproduced in the Organic Law of the Principality. Practical measures must be taken to insure their observance, and those measures cannot be adopted too soon. Her Majesty's Government hope and believe that you will find the Russian Commissioner ready to listen to any representations which you may feel it your duty to make on this point.

It cannot be the intention or desire of the Emperor of Russia that the occupation of Turkish territory by his troops should lead to a mere reversal in the parts of oppressor and oppressed; and that ill-treatment of Christians by Mahommedans should be succeeded by ill-treatment of Mahommedans by Christians. But, undoubtedly, the practical difficulties are considerable, and acts of violence and injustice are likely to occur in a country where passions on either side have been so much excited, and have not yet had time to cool.

It will be right that you should bring at once to the notice of the Russian Commissioner any such occurrences that may come to your knowledge, taking care, however, before making any such representations, to ascertain that the facts are well authenticated, and the reports free from exaggeration.

For the prevention of such disorders, and for the general welfare of the Principality, the existence of an efficient civil police is a primary necessity. The duties of such a corps are quite distinct from those of a military body, and are not such as an occupying force is by the nature of things well fitted to discharge. But care is needed in the composition of such a police force, and in the selection of the officers to command it, that it shall not itself become the representative of any particular class or creed, and an instrument of oppression against others.

A requirement no less obvious is that the Tribunals established or to be established during the provisional administration should be so constituted as to insure, as far as possible, the administration of impartial justice to Christian and Mussulman alike.

I need not recommend to you to cultivate the most cordial relations with your colleagues, who, as the Representatives of neutral Powers, will be actuated by the same feelings as yourself, and will, no doubt, cordially join with you in the task of devising and suggesting the details of measures to insure the well-being and tranquillity of the Principality.

You will not fail to report to me from time to time on the proceedings and working of the provisional administration; and in case any difference should arise necessitating a reference to the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty, I should wish you to inform me of the fact at once by telegraph.

Copies of all your despatches should be forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. It will be best that you should proceed to that capital in the first instance, and place yourself at once in communication with Sir H. Layard, who will be able to give you advice and instructions as to your movements and proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 608.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 4. Political. Confidential.) [B.B.]
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1878.

BY Article IX of the Treaty of Berlin it is provided that the amount of the tribute to be paid by the Principality of Bulgaria to the Suzerain Court shall be determined by agreement between the Signatory Powers at the end of the first year of the new organization. The Powers are, at the same time, to consider what portion of the public debt of the Empire should be borne by the Principality.

You have been supplied with such information as is in the possession of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the revenues of the Principality while under the direct rule of the Sultan. I should wish you to take any opportunities you may have to verify and correct that information, and furnish me with any materials you may be able to procure for forming a correct estimate of the future financial position of the Principality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 609.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General White.

(No. 45.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1878.

HAVING learnt from your telegrams of the 25th and 28th instants that the Governments of Austria and Italy have made known their readiness to address the Prince of Roumania in future as His Royal Highness, and that the French Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest had also been instructed to congratulate the Prince on assuming that title, I have this day instructed you by telegraph to intimate, in the same form as that observed by the Austrian Representative, the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to recognize the assumption of this title by Prince Charles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 610.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1878.

IN reply to the inquiry contained in your telegram of the 27th instant as to the part to be taken by the Roumanian Government in the demarcation of the frontier separating the territory to be ceded to that principality from Bulgaria, I have this day informed you that, according to the Treaty, Roumania has no right to take any part in the settlement of the boundary, and that if any agent attends the Commission on behalf of the Roumanian Government he can only be present as a looker on.

In reply to your other questions, as to the powers to be given to you for the settlement of the frontier of Eastern Roumelia, I have informed you that Major Gordon has received a Commission enabling him to act for this purpose, and that he will endeavour to arrange that the Commission should commence its operations on the eastern part of the southern frontier, starting from the Black Sea, so as to avoid the risk of coming into collision with the insurgents.

Should you subsequently be required to take an active part in the survey of the southern and western portions of the frontier of the province, further instructions and a Commission giving you the necessary powers will be sent to you. At present, however, it does not seem probable that this will be necessary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.